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PROFILE OF MATTHIAS SAMMER

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SPOTLIGHT ON CARL HOOPER

ENCOUNTER WITH ARAVINDA De SILVA

, 2

WIMBLEDON QUIZ

WIMBLEDON TENNIS INDEX

CARL LEWIS IS AIMING FOR GOLD

WILL CHRISTIE WIN AGAIN?

FEMALE CADDIES: SERVICE WITH A SMILE

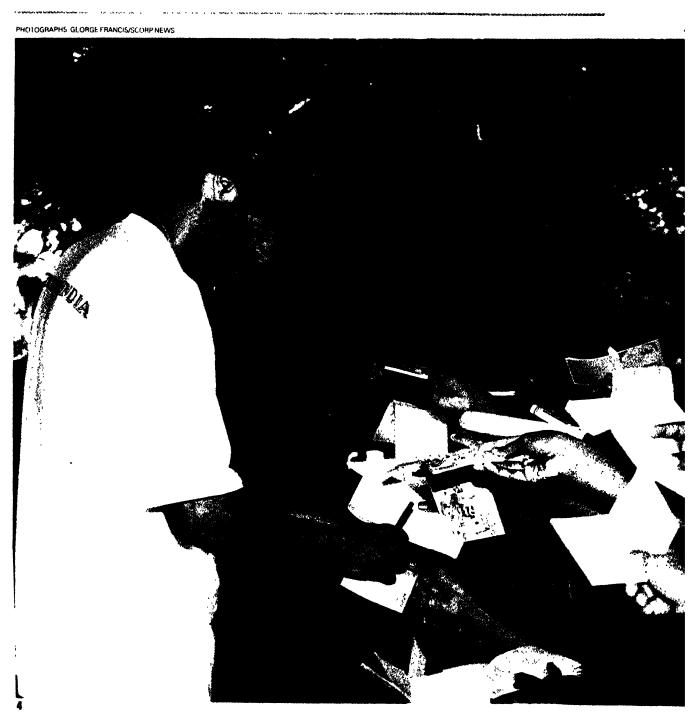
FREEWHEELING

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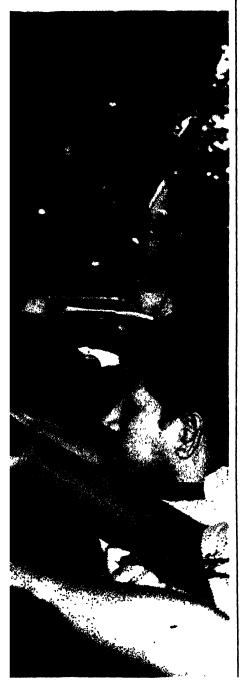
MUTINY?

The truth behind the Sidhu controversy and the repercussions it could have on Indian cricket



FROM SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

OU are not obliged to say anything, but anything you say will be taken down and may be used in evidence"—part of the wording of the official caution used in the British and Irish police forces by the cautioning officer while arresting a suspect.



Nobody, I am sure, said such a thing to Navjot Sidhu. He was not a suspect; rather his predicament was more like that of a victim. Yet, the star Indian batsman chose to say as little as possible, thus giving people an opportunity to let their imagination run riot about the possible reason for his untimely, dramatic retirement from cricket. He just announced his retirement, in a huff and left everybody guessing.

Sidhu, however, left one bombshell of a clue. He said, "It will be below my dignity to continue to play for this Indian side." There could be a thousand and one interpretations to that, raising many delicate issues ranging from Sidhu's patriotism to mere personality clashes within the current Indian team.

The situation at that stage was ripe for misunderstanding Sidhu, for casting aspersions on this fine young man, whose professionalism, his they guessed were too outrageous to print. It all stemmed from the veil of silence and secretiveness that enveloped the entire Indian touring team immediately after Sidhu's brief, baffling announcement about quitting. And it all proved so painful for anyone who thought that Navjot Singh Sidhu has always been an asset to the Indian team.

An impressive average —40.13 from 36 Tests (see box) — speaks volumes for his consistency and dependability. And at 32, this fit, useful cricketer was particularly effective as an opener, the one slot where, as regards talent, the Indians are still in short supply. Sidhu has been making considerable contributions to Indian cricket, since 1983. And to be more statistically precise, Sidhu's total Test runs of 2027 runs at an average of 40 is a record only bettered in the present side by none other than the two towering

"Yell coscolor ki beat hai, it is a matter of principle. How can you keep telling yourself, carry on, carry on' although deep down you are overwhelmed by the feeling that this whole thing was being more and more unfair. If I am invaluable to the team, then why should I have to face so much humiliation, why should circumstances be such that one is driven to despair?"—Navjot Sidhu

obvious pride as an important and successful Indian cricketer were unmistakable. Cricket-lovers, Sidhu fans, cricket writers, and I am sure his own teammates were eagerly awaiting more information, more light to be thrown on one of the most dramatic and mysterious developments in the history of Indian cricket. But there was none coming, either from the management nor from the man himself, who failed to realise that their reticence was causing more damage to the team's morale, to the player's reputation.

Tongues were wagging all over. Some people, fortunately laymen though, even insinuated that Sidhu's loyalty to his country was not hundred per cent. And the reasons

Despite being low key and reserved, Sidhu has been very popular with the Indian cricket public

figures of Indian cricket, Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin. So, for all his quiet, almost self-effacing demeanour Navjot Singh Sidhu was not at all an ordinary bloke, not one of the also-rans who have left little impact on Indian cricket.

Off the pitch, his lack of flamboyance, his quiet ways may not have quite wrapped him up in glamour, his star-status may not have been highlighted and embellished by the media; but that hardly obscures the fact that Sidhu was one of the brightest fellows going in Indian cricket at the moment.

It was ironic that Sidhu's rather unfortunate and controversial exit from cricket happened during a series against England. Sidhu played quite an effective role as India's opener during the last series against England, and of course, the irony would seem even more dramatic if you remember his fruitful partnership with Manoj Prabhakar. Together, they formed an excellent opening pair. Together, they would be seen as the latest and most unfortunate victims of Indian cricket's internecine trouble.

Politics in team selection,
Prabhakar had claimed, was the

cricket just two months ago, after being left out of India's World Cup squad after that disastrous match against Sri Lanka. And he reckoned that Sidhu was yet another victim of the same juggernaut. "Sidhu's resignation is the result of the selectors' short-sighted policies and the high-handedness of the team management," the 33-year-old cricketer-turned-politician opined.

Prabhakar's point, what is indisputable is that Sidhu was indeed one of the most disciplined campaigners around in the Indian side for quite sometime. To those who might have viewed Sidhu's decision to quit halfway through a series as impulsive rebellion, Prabhakar said, "We must look for the reasons that compelled a seasoned and disciplined player to take such an extreme decision in the middle of the tour."

And it is a fact too that Sidhu has seldom caused any controversy during his long, eventful stint in the Indian team. He has delivered the goods, and been content with his smooth-sailing life as a pro. News about Sidhu have seldom been for non-cricketing reasons.

Well, the subject we are talking about now of course is a cricketing matter. But, as far as indications go, this one had more to do with matters off the pitch rather than on it.

The apparent reason for leaving Sidhu out of the one-day squad for the very last match of the series was his low scores in the first two games of the Texaco Trophy. But Sidhu said that his agony had been continuing from before, and it had a lot to do with the way his position in the batting order kept changing like in a game of musical chairs.

Most cricket pundits would agree that Sidhu had resolved a rather tricky problem for the Indian side, by settling down effectively as an opener. And, as far as one-day cricket was concerned, he was the only opening batsman in the side with Test experience. So, Sidhu did have his reasons to feel proud of himself, and his role as a specialist bat, that is of course if one cares to understand his problem from a psychological point of view.

And the fact that nothing but his pride was hurt became clear when Sidhu said, "I could not take the humiliation anymore" (Main aur zillat ley nahi sakta).

What I found quite odd was Sidhu did not want to specify who was

Sidhu and Tendulkar are cool, dedicated, sincere professionals, for whom playing for the country is a matter of great pride



CAREER STATISTICS

IN TESTS

7	lmns	NO	Runs	Avg	HS	100	50	Ct	Bells	Runs	Wkts
36	54	2	2087	40.13	124	6	10	8	6	9	0

IN ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

T	inne	NO	Runs	Avg	HS	100	50	Ct	Balls	Runs	Wkts
106	103	8	3937	41.44	134*	6	31	15	3	2	0

Test centuries

124	Vs.	Sri Lanka, first Test, Lucknow, 1994
116	Vs.	New Zealand, first Test, Bangalore, 1988
116	Vs.	West Indies, fourth Test, Kingston, 1989
107	Vs.	West Indies, second Test, Nagpur, 1994
106	Vs.	England, second Test, Madras, 1993
104	Vs.	Sri Lanka, second Test, Colombo, 1993

Centuries in One-dayers

134*	Vs	England,	Gwalior,	1993
· 114*	Vs	West Indies,	Vishakapatnam,	1994
108	٧s	Pakistan,	Sharjah,	1989
108	Vs	Sri Lanka,	Rajkot,	1991
104*	Vs	Bangladesh,	Chandigarh,	1990-91
101	Vs	Pakistan,	Sharjah,	1996

Nervous 90's in One-dayers

98	Vs	West Indies,	Sharjah,	1991
94	Vs	Sri Lanka,	Singapore,	1996
93	Vs	Pakistan,	Bangalore,	1996

Four Half Centuries in a World Cup

73, 75, 51, 55 --- Fourth World Cup, 1987



KAMAL JUI KA

- * Sidhu scored six centuries in one-day internationals and became the second highest centurion for India. Only Sachin Tendulkar scored two centuries more than
- ★ In both the Test and one-dayers Sidhu has the distinction of having an average about 40 which is considered very creditable.

COMPILED BY HARIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAY

causing the humiliation and how. Was it an individual, the board, the manager, the lobby managers of the hotels they were checking in? The English weather or aliens from outer space? Just who was hurting his self-esteem?

There was simply no answer. Even

when he was specifically asked if it was the skipper, Mohammed Azharuddin, he was referring to, Sidhu said,"No, I am not referring to anyone in particular."

By now, Sidhu had started talking in riddles. What purpose did he think his mealy-mouthed comments were

serving when everybody knew, including himself, that the damage had already been done. After the agony of the Texaco Trophy, the team suffered yet another blow just when its morale needed a shot in the arm, before taking on the resurgent English cricketing might at its own backyard.

WHAT THEY SAY

Sidhu's decision to leave the tour has come as a big shock. In all the years that I have known him, he seldom—if ever—lost his temper and has looked among the most unflappable of people. He is also unfailinglycourteous and respectable towards elders and senior cricketers and though he likes to share a joke, he generally keeps his counsel and because of this latter trait he is also a misunderstood person—Sunil Gavaskar

Some have suggested that Sidhu quit in a fit of pique because he was not told of his omission from the final one-dayer...until he was putting on his pads to bat. If that was the case, it would not be sufficient grounds to go home—Sandeep Patil

I will blame Azharuddin for Sidhu's stunning decision to leave the team in the middle of the tour of England, though I am not happy with the veteran opener's decision to quit—Kapil Dev

Sidhu has been one of our most prolific batsman and has made invaluable contributions to the Indian team. It is matter of regret that a player of his calibre should be meted out treatment that makes him feel unwanted and humiliated —Former BCCI president Madhav Rao Scindia

Sidhu has been one of the most consistent performers for the country and any batsman with an average of 40-plus in both Tests and one-day internationals cannot be taken lightly —Lala Amarnath

There is no point playing when one is not in a good frame of mind

and when such things are playing on his mind, there must be something serious going on —Former Indian spinner Erapalli Prasanna

I am surprised that his decision was not anticipated by the team management in England. There certainly appears to be a distinct lack of communication. If there were any problems it could have been thrashed out by the team management —Abbas Ali Baig

One just cannot go to a big tour and then quit stating unbearable conditions. Sidhu should not have gone to the press straightaway without discussing it with the team management —Former Indian captain Gulab Ramchand

He has let the country down. If I had been in his place, I would have given off my best for the rest of the tour and after coming home, would have taken a decision

—Former Test all-rounder Bapu
Nadkarni

Being dropped from the team is all part and parcel of a cricket tour. Sidhu's action has sullied the country's cricketing image at a time when the team was not playing well—Former Indian wicketkeeper Madhav Mantri

What is surprising is the fact that a player of Sidhu's potential, who has been a disciplined soldier of the team all the years, has been forced to take such a harsh decision

—Manoj Prabhakar

When I saw it the papers, I was really shocked. It should not have happened in the middle of the

tour. There should be something behind this. It should not happen in Indian cricket — Krishnamachari Srikkanth

The beaten Indian team is in turmoil. Divisions in their ranks betrayed by the astonishing decision of Navjot Sidhu, their potential opener—The Times

I'm sad because he has a lot of cricket left in him. He's a quiet guy who is well regarded. I can't comment about his relationship with the captain—Indian team manager Sandeep Patil

What happened is very sad. This episode must have left the team in total disarray and affected the morale of the players. I am criticising the team management because it allowed the situation to reach such a level—Former Indian opener Chetan Chauhan

There is a limit to what a player can take. Sidhu is a very senior player known for his cool temperament. If he has left the team and returned home there must be something drastically wrong in the team

—Kirti Azad

Navjot Singh Sidhu's decision to retire from international cricket, midway through the tour, was more shocking than India's defeat in the Texaco Trophy series. I do not recall a single instance of a player packing his bags for good even before the Test series got underway. I guess it must have been very painful when he was left out of the first eleven for the third one-day international —Former Indian captain Dilip Vengsarkar



Sidhu (extreme Left) with Ali Irani, Azharuddin and Kapil Dev

If anyone did hurt Sidhu, it was unfair, unsporting. But the option that Sidhu chose also hurt his team beyond measure. And after having done the damage, Sidhu did not do anyone any good, by talking in innuendoes. If he thought he did, his conscience was nursing him with false comfort.

On the contrary, I found it rather unfair that despite Sidhu's reticence and riddles, Azharuddin should begin to emerge as the unseen villain of the piece. Sidhu never mentioned the skipper's name; he insisted that he was not pointing a finger at anyone. Then why should one jump to the conclusion that it all started from the very top.

The main accusation against

"I could not take the humiliation anymore. Main aur zillat nahi leh sakta. What really kept me going was the honour of playing for my country. It was extremely difficult for me to tell myself that enough was enough, and make up my mind that I should quit the Indian team. If you had been in my position, you would have realised how difficult it is for one to decide to stop playing for one's country. I could never bring myself to decline to play for India."—Navjot Sidhu

skipper Azharuddin from Sidhu sympathizers has been that he is deliberately harrassing those in the team who can challenge him for the top job. In short, Azharuddin is making sure that those who could be a threat to his position could not survive in the team for long. And predictably, the worse salvo came from Manoj Prabhakar: "Azharuddin is trying to eliminate all those who could threaten his position as captain," he

said, citing Kapil Dev, Sidhu and himself as examples. Worse still, he prophecied "My feeling is that the next target will be Sanjay Manjrekar."

It is difficult to prove these allegations, whoever may have brought them against Azharuddin, although the fact remains that in the past there have been few occasions when Sidhu did seem to have been in the skipper's bad books. There was this controversy during the New



With former Indian manager Ajit Wadekar. Somehow, there was no dissension and off the field hassles under the latter's management

Zealand tour of India last year, when Azharuddin and the then team manager Ajit Wadekar issued contradictory statements on Sidhu's fitness after he was dropped for the Test series. Moreover, Sidhu himself claimed that his fitness was hundred per cent.

Sources close to Sidhu claim that the affable soft-spoken cricketer had already been at the end of his tether. "The fact that Sidhu could carry on for so long, enduring this ceaseless torture that was conspired against him actually amazes me," said a touring member of the Indian team on condition of anonymity. "Not once, but many times he did tell me he was disgusted with the team management. But given the way he carried on suffering all the humiliation for so ong, I never really

expected him to make such a drastic step. Yes, it was a shock to us all who knew Sidhu, even though we knew that deep down this was an extremely unhappy man touring with us, doing his best for his side, his country and himself. At times we used to wonder how could he act so normally, play the way he did, despite having so much frustration pent up within himself," he said, "The persecution of Navjot Singh Sidhu may not have made headline stories in the media, but it was there, continuously tormenting this simple guy to no end."

The first time that despair found expression was when Sidhu said, "I could not take this humiliation anymore."

But how could he endure it for so long, if that really had been the case? Sidhu said, "What really kept me going was the honour of playing for my country. It was extremely difficult for me to tell myself that enough was

enough, and make up my mind that I should quit the Indian team. If you had been in my position, you would have realised how difficult it is for one to decide to stop playing for one's country. I could never bring myself to decline to play for India. But then, this time circumstances have been such that I could take it no more."

The agony of Sidhu became unbearable because he thought that by continuing to play for the present Indian side, he was being unfair to himself, was compromising on a matter of principle.

"Yeh Oosoolon ki baat hai, (it is a matter of principle)," he said, adding "how long can you keep telling yourself, carry on, carry on; although deep down you are overwhelmed by the feeling that this whole thing was being more and more unfair. I know many people would criticise me, condemn me for having taken such a step at a time like this. I have already



It is almost undeniable that the touring team's managerial authorities have a lot of answering to do for this sordid episode. India's former captain, Dilip Vengsarkar did not forget to point that out. He asked if a player was being harassed and singled out over a considerable period of time, and there was nothing secret about it, then how come no one among Indian cricket's benevolent big shots lifted a finger to stop it?"

heard the criticism that by taking this step in the middle of a tour I have wrecked the whole team. The team would have needed me badly during the Test matches against England. Yes, I know, I would be needed. But then, if I am needed, if I am valuable to the team, then why should I have to face so much humiliation, why should circumstances be such that one would be driven to despair?"

Sidhu could no longer sit down quietly and reflect if this would be the

right time to take a drastic action. Whether it would hurt anyone, the Indian team, the cricket fraternity. He felt his patience had simply been exhausted. To him, "it was no longer a question of time. It was only a matter of principle. My decision to quit had a lot to do with principle. There were no two ways about it, not any longer," Sidhu said in an interview to BBC.

Well, talking about principle, it is almost undeniable that the touring team's managerial authorities too had

Phew! It's really hot. Sidhu covers himself with his towel during a camp

a lot of answering to do for this sordid episode. India's former captain Dilip Vengsarkar did not forget to point that out. He asked it a player was being har assed and singled out over a considerable period of time, and there was nothing secret about it, then how come no one among Indian cricket's benevolent big shots lifted a finger to stop it?

Well, for his part Sandeep Patil regretted that it was a most 'unfortunate incident'. Nagraj launched into lengthy discussions with Sidhu to persuade him back into the team. But for Sidhu, by then the scar had been too deep to overcome For those who would love to see Sidhu back in the Indian team again, the only ray of hope at the moment seem's to be his still unflinching faith in the BCCI top brass. He says he has given his full story to the Board. He hopes justice will be done.

"The Humiliation Became

Navjot Singh Sidhu opens his heart in an interview

Why did you take the decision to quit cricket altogether in the middle of a tour, when everybody expected you to do well, and I am sure you yourself believe that there is still a lot of cricket left in you?

Well, cricket had nothing to do with it. I did not take the decision for any cricketing reasons. The reasons, the factors that compelled me to make up my mind and decide to get away from this all were absolutely non-cricketing ones. So, it is no point discussing how well I was performing, or whether I was likely to get back to form, or for that matter what people, I mean cricket lovers, were expecting from me. Yes, I know I had a lot of cricket left in me, but as I said my decision was not taken for any cricketing reasons. It was taken for purely non-cricketing reasons.

What were those reasons? Could you please specify?

I have informed the Board about those reasons, the circumstances that led to this situation.

Yes, but don't you think the public deserves to know what really happened. You came to England representing your country, its honour. You have raised so much expectation among the cricket-loving public. Any action of yours is liable to make a deep impact on them. And one may argue that while

you are on a tour, representing a country, you can't just take your own personal decision without thinking of its likely impact on your country's image?

Well, I have never declined to play for my country. I have always regarded that as the greatest honour. But I had to take this decision, and all I can say about the reason at the moment is: I simply could not take the humiliation anymore. Main yeh zillat aur ley nahi sakta...

But who humiliated you? Are you

referring to the captain...Azharuddin?

Well, I do not want to point a finger at any individual in particular. Mera ishara kisika taraf nahi hai.

But then the question remains: who humiliated you?

The Board officials know everything. I have told them the whole story.

But don't you think that your services would be very much required in the Test series, especially now that India needed



Intolerable"

Sidhu with Manoj Prabhakar (left). The two of them have quite a story to tell about Indian cricket



to muster all the resources at its command to get back on its feet after the Texaco Trophy disaster? Well, as I said, playing for one's country is the greatest honour one can dream of. So. I have never been unwilling to play for India. But then there are times when you say 'enough is enough', and I realised that it was impossible for me to carry on like this, suffering so much humiliation for no fault of mine.

But talking about your importance as an experienced player in the side, and how badly your absence would weaken the side, don't you think your timing was rather controversial, I mean, the fact that you decided to take such a drastic step in the middle of a tour which already seemed to be going seriously wrong?

No, no, I don't think timing has anything to do with it. I repeat I have never declined to play for India. I have been proud of being a member of the Indian side. But now the situation has been such that I could not just take any further humiliation. And that's it.

But you have not told us who humiliated you?

I have told the Board all about it. They know the full story.

But why did you tell the Board? Do you expect the Board to see to it that justice is done?

I thought it is my duty to inform them why I am taking this decision. Whatever they want to do now is up to them. As far as I am concerned I have never run away from my responsibilities and I have never declined to play for my country. But the humiliation that I have been suffering became intolerable.



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The Best Position

German midfielder Matthias Sammer has more than a point to prove in Euro '96

FROM NOVY KAPADIA, LONDON

OR nearly two decades, Germany has been obsessed, with finding the new Franz Beckenbauer. Known as 'Der Kaiser', Beckenbauer had given football a new dimension, by his display as an attacking libero. He had transformed the static and ultra defensive position of sweeper into an attacking role. In recent times, the finest exponent of this demanding role as a libero was the imperious Italian Francisco Baresi who also excelled for A.C.Milan during their halcyon days, in the late 1980s and carly 1990s.

Germany have since tried many players as libero. In the 1994 World Cup, Lothar Matthaeus whose explosive speed had diminished, due to several crippling injuries, tried out the role of 'libero'. Matthaeus flopped at USA'94. Jurgen Kohler, who became the world's costhest defender when he moved to Juventus in 1991 for five million British pounds, Guido Buchwald, Thomas Helmer and Markus Babbel are some of the other players who have been tried out in this position.

After years of futile search, the German coach and the demanding fans are at last breathing a sigh of relief. The latest incumbent of Der Kaiser's shoes is the elegant former East German international, 28-year-old Matthias Sammer. Sammer is the reigning German Footballer of the Year and has matured into a shrewd and classy defender. The carping critics (Germany has a very critical and demanding media)

Matthias Sammer in action against Marco Sandy of Bolivia during their first round World Cup match at Chicago in '94



also rate Sammer highly. Above all
Sammer who has recently shifted
from midfielder to libero is
comfortable about this switch. During
the German training camp for
Euro'96 at Belfast, he said, "Yes I am
happy in the position."

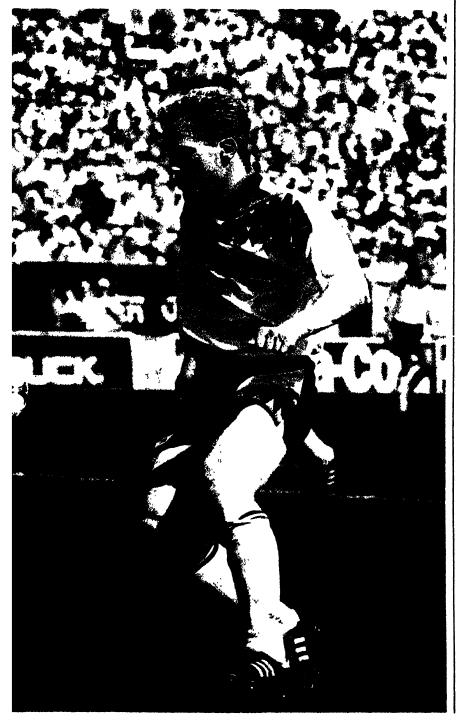
Sammer was a prodigy of sorts in East Germany. Before the Berlin Wall

crumbled in 1990, Sammer was already capped 23 times for East Germany. He became the first East German to play for the unified German team in a 1-0 win against Switzerland in the latter half of 1990. He played for Stuttgart in the Bundesliga and won a German league title with his club in 1992. His feline

touch, silky skills and deft passing as a midfielder attracted the Italian scouts. Internazionale Milan then wooed Sammer to Italy. As a midfield general, Sammer created a good impression. However, it was in Italy that he started thinking seriously about playing as a libero. Inter brought the talented Yugoslav, Darko Pancev and Sammer had to struggle to hold his place in midfield. A keen thinker of the game and a perfect team man, Sammer felt that the position of libero would suit both his temperament and talents. Not sure of a regular first team place in Inter Milan, Sammer finally returned to Borussia Dortmund in Germany. He won back to back championship medals with his new club, in 1995 and 1996.

Above all, his coach at Dortmund Ottmar Hitzfeld, further refined Sammer's game as libero. His international career also took off since the switch from midfield to libero. German coach Bertie Vogts is a great admirer of Sammer's footballing skills, especially his ability to direct play and create attacks with telling passes. Earlier this year, former German skipper Lothar Matthaeus, recovered well from a ruptured achilles tendon that kept him out of action for ten months. Matthaeus played some of his best football as sweeper for his club Bayern Munich. Some critics suggested that Matthaeus be recalled to the national squad for Euro '96. However, Vogts shrugged aside such a suggestion and stated that Sammer was his first choice sweeper.

The genial Sammer is admired by both his coach and teammates. Skipper Jurgen Klinsmann says, "In Matthias Sammer we have a sweeper who plays in a very modern way, able to move into midfield, always very balanced, always very comfortable on the ball." Sammer on his part, remains unfazed by such adulation. He is quite a philosophic footballer. Stardom for him does not mean throwing tantrums like Paul Gascoigne or behaving like a prima donna. Instead, Sammer maintains that the blend of a team is more





important than the sum of its individuals.

With his languid assurance, Sammer controls play for the mighty Germans, known for their penchant for attacking in frenetic bursts. Born in Dresden, Matthias Sammer, started training with the nursery team of Dynamo Dresden as a five-year-old. His father Klaus was a former coach of Dynamo Dresden. Klaus, the major influence on his son, had also played for the erstwhile German Democratic Republic (GDR). Sammer's lather is

Matthias Sammer is going to be the linchpin of Berti Vogts' Germany in this year's Euro '96

now one of Vogt's assistants.

Though a highly successful player, with a lucrative income, Matthias Sammer does not belong to the 'me generation'. He has not snubbed his roots. Three weeks prior to the commencement of Euro'96, he played in a fund raiser for his former club Dynamo Dresden, which has slipped from the lirst to the third division in the Bundesliga. Sammer is expected to be a key player

for Germany as they try to win the coveted European football championships for the third time. Germany, the bookies favourite for Euro'96, have the best record of any country, twice winners (1972 and 1980) and twice runners up (1976 and 1992). Sammer who is yet to taste international success with Germany, is highly motivated to gain a winner's medal by playing not only with the customary teutonic thoroughness but also with the requisite flair and panache.

The Voice of Indian Cricket

Sports Opinion poll

Indian cricket is suffering. Prabhakar, Kambli and now even a cricketer like Sidhu, who is in form, have been left out of the Indian squad. Sports world wants the cricket lovers to express their opinion. After all, the Indian Cricket Team is representing the country and not the whims of a few. At last, Indian cricket aficionados, other than our selection committee and so-called think tank, could enjoy the power of expressing themselves.

1) Was Kapil given his due respect by the then Manager and Captain before he quit? (Yes/No)
2) Vinod Kambli was dropped after the World Cup. The perceived ground was either poor performance or indiscipline. According to you, who deserves to be dropped on the following grounds
a) Poor Performance in The Wills World Cup
b) Indiscipline
3) Prabhakar's two overs against Sri Lanka cost him a berth in the squad. a) Is it justified? (Yes / No)
b) Does the national squad still require Prabhakar's service? (Yes / No)
4) Whose resignation(s) would do good to Indian cricket?
a) from the Indian Squad b) The captain c) Selection committee
5) Does the National Squad still require Sidhu's Service? (Yes / No)
6) Who should be the next Indian captain?
7) Should the zonal system be dispensed with? (Yes/No)
Name
Fill in this coupon and mail it to Sportsworld Opinion Poll, 6 Prafulla Sar- ker Street, Calcutte 700 001. All entries must be in this original coupon (no copies allowed) and must reach us by July 3, 1996.

The results will be announced in our August 14 issue.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KAMAL JULKA

Hooper Makes A fresh and rejuvenated Cois once again ready to prove

A fresh and rejuvenated Carl Hooper is once again ready to prove his credentials both within his team and to the rest of the cricketing fraternity

E was not exceptional or brilliant in his formative years. Like all school children he was fickle-minded, agile and fidgety. Like them he too played plenty of basketball, football and cricket —and heard Carribean music. But our protagonist had shown more ability in cricket and so had no real obstacle in adapting to it at an early age.

When he was in school Rex
Collymore, who had played a number
of Test matches for the West Indies,
was this lad's physical instructor from
where he picked up a few good points
of the game. Then the boy came in
touch with former West Indian
captain Clive Lloyd who also helped
him. No one in the West Indies
cricketing circles can say this potential
talent has had any particular coach to
nurture his game. He had picked up the
tidbits from his seniors.

Yes, we are talking about the Guyanese-born Carl Hooper, the West Indies' formidable and talented allrounder batsman-cum-bowler who was also a front-runner for the captain's mantle. Though today perhaps that ambition will remain a dream. In his early days, Hooper just picked up the game naturally. Basically he began as a batsman. Bowling came to him later. Because of his ability to bat well he was chosen for the Guyanese team and performed extremely well. This stood him in good stead for he was selected for the under-19 tour against England in 1985. He had a couple of good outings with the bat,

having scored a memorable century in his first match on the Zimbabwe tour. Soon after that, Hooper's cricket began to take on the right perspective. The selectors kept a close scrutiny on Hooper. In fact, he didn't believe that things would happen so rapidly. Carl Hooper became a star and this meant that he was an automatic selection for the West Indies team in 1987.

Those who follow his game will recall that he scored a century in his second appearance which was 12 days

As a slow medium pacer he has taken many wickets. In one season with Kent he claimed 29 county wickets

after his 21st birthday. Even one particular newspaper came up with a heading 'Lovely player, young Hooper'. Everyone appreciated his batting, an art which he practised so effortlessly. But as Hooper grew, he realised how hard the game could be. His mental turmoil at times

contributed to his lack of cricketing form, he realised that he was human.

About his batting: Cricket watchers in the counties of England say that Hooper makes batting look so effortless. But how true is it? For in spite of his talents 'he desperately struggles to do justice to his



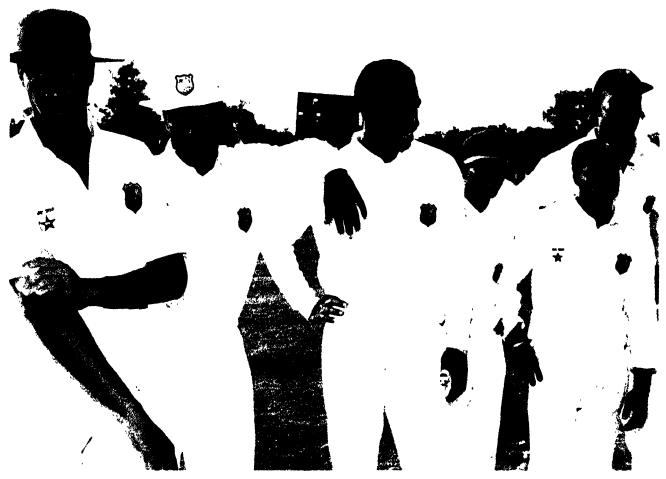
capabilities when playing Test cricket'. Gossip circles in the Caribbean have authenticated opinions which say that Hooper is the Caribbean version of Graeme Hick. What's more his figures in domestic cricket suggests that he would even put Graeme Hick to shame.

English counties are flooded with many young cricketers who leave the Carribbean islands to play in order to pursue their livelihood. Carl Hooper, like any other ambitious cricketer, converged on English soil to play for Kent. Apart from the fact that he earned a bit of money, Kent has served Hooper's cricket more professionally. He is a lot more experienced. Mature. You just cannot ignore his game. You just cannot throw him aside like bad rubbish. For he's always aiming to prove his international pedigree. But then it was not all that smooth for the aloof and soft-spoken West Indian.

When Hooper missed the England tour in 1994 due to an injury sustained against Trinidad, it was his

brilliant performance in the county that enabled him to tour India later that year. One cannot but write about his splendid performance for Kent. That successful summer fetched him 1,579 runs including five centuries in 16 matches and also equalled the Sunday League record of six 50s. He also bowled extremely well, claiming 29 wickets from his clever slow medium pacers and 26 catches to become the Kent hero. He was an automatic choice for the West Indies Good friends: Hooper with Brian Lara





Carl Hooper (second from left) with his teammates during the West Indies tour of India in 1994

tour of India, where he walked away with the Man-of-the-Match at Nagpur.

But cricketing circles came in for a big surprise when he was dropped from the 1995 squad which toured England alongwith seven others for the 1995 Sharjah tournament in spite of Hooper's statistics showing 894 runs off 18 matches at an average of 59.60. Even the chairman of the selection committee failed to come up with a satisfactory explanation of Hooper's exclusion. Hooper was fit enough for the desert tour and may have put up a good show, whereas Brian Lara who wanted to skip Sharjah on grounds of rest was not granted permission.

Having earned universal admiration Hooper, the all-rounder, because of personal problems and being physically unfit after a bout of influenza, opted out of the team for the Wills World Cup and the home series against the New Zealand. But Andy Roberts had attributed Hooper's inconsistency due to lack of confidence, while Hooper himself complained of frustration coupled with mental and physical tiredness.

Last year, Hooper toured England and in his absence Kent acquired the services of Sri Lanka and World Cup hero, the swashbuckling batsman Aravinda De Silva who scored 1,661 runs in the county championships which is more than the West Indian had scored during his tenure with them. However, Hooper will be serving Kent for the fourth season and he hopes to score 2000 runs, a target he has set for the first time. As he told *The Times*: "I have to prove my desire to compete at the highest level."

Come November, the West Indies will visit Down Under and Hooper wants to be in the side. There was a time when people began to have doubts about Hooper's desire to

compete at the top level. But Hooper wants to prove himself once more with the bat and ball. He also wants to forget the bad memory of West Indies losing to Australia in their first Test series in 15 years in 1995, when Hooper's "brittleness under pressure attracted a lot of criticism."

"I am 29 and at the halfway point of my career," he told *The Times*.

"Anything I have missed in the past I must try to make up for. I know my Test average (31.85) is lower than it should be." Perhaps Hooper can improve his average but it will take him the rest of his career. (Played 52 Tests and scored five centuries).

Carl Hooper is all set to prove himself once again for Kent and then looks forward to proving his credentials in Australia in order to prove the critics wrong. Whether he fails or clicks there can be no doubt that Carl Hooper will never be labelled a has-been.

Subhash Sarcar

GREAT GUY! GREAT BATSMAN!

An encounter with ARAVINDA De SILVA, a legend-in-the-making

first encountered Aravinda de
Silva in an Under-15 game,
when he walked in to bat and hit
Graeme Tissera (son of former
All Ceylon captain Michael Tissera)
out of the grounds on to the Galle
Road. The distance to the boundary
was only about 40 metres, but there
was a hill which was over 50 metres
high, in front of the road and it was
unbelievable that anyone so young
could hit so hard.

Two years later, in an Under 23 Trial, he hit Rumesh Ratnayake for four consecutive sixes at Asgiriya and in the process, scored a double hundred and lost three balls. The greatest moment in my cricketing life was when I was chosen to play alongside him against Salim Malik's Pakistanis at the Oval in their Under 23 Tour that same year.

The writing was on the wall. He was destined for greatness. He had the power of Duleep Mendis, the timing and grace of Roy Dias and the scoring capacity of Anura Tennekoon. The pressure for Aravinda and Arjuna to perform at all times has been tremendous, and their failure and success has had a direct impact on the performance of the team at all times in the last decade.



Aravinda de Silva in action against Australia in the final

The carefree and happy-go-lucky Aravinda, at the start of the decade, has given way to the mature and sensible Aravinda today, and he was never arrogant or stuck-up either. I asked him about the bribery allegations which seemed to surface as soon as he failed to perform or played a bad shot. A prime example of this were the comments made about his performance in the Singer Trophy in Singapore, just after the World Cup.

He smiled warily, and answered, "It's become fashionable for people to accuse myself and other team members of being crooked every time we have a bad game. I do not play cricket for the money. I have never played cricket for the money. It hurts





me sometimes that people can be so insensitive and unkind as to accuse us of such a thing especially after our performance in the World Cup."

If making money was his only aim, Aravinda states quite frankly, then he would have begun playing overseas for clubs or Counties many years ago. He has sacrificed many lucrative overseas contracts just to represent his country in only a couple of Tests at a time, and there is no comparison of the money he could have earned by playing abroad.

He said, "I feel like quitting at times

De Silva being interviewed by lan Chappel after receiving the Man Of The Match Award in

when I hear allegations that I play only for monetary gain, but seeing that so many great players have also been accused of taking bribes to throw games and their response has been to perform even better and achieve greater heights, it motivates me to carry on."

I asked him if winning the World Cup had altered his perception of how much longer he would continue playing cricket. He said, "World Cup

success was something I needed to keep me going, and I feel fresh inspiration to go on to the next World Cup. I do not, however, think I'll play after that event." When asked why, he said "Players in Asia and in hot climates in general, tend to burn out faster than, for example, their English or Australian counterparts. This is not due to any physical difference, but simply because the climate we play in, and our diets, are not conducive to long sporting careers. I do, however, have the motivation to train harder and to perform at this level for a few more years."

He made history by his performance in Kent in his first season of County cricket. His achievements include seven centuries, the first player to score 1000 runs for the season and the third player in the history of the World Cup to score a hundred in the final—the other two players being Viv Richards and Graham Gooch. He was also crowned 'Player of the Year' for Kent and the sponsors gifted him a Mercedes for his outstanding season. He has decided not to play in the UK this year due to the Australian tour in August, as the Counties will not permit him to leave mid-season.

Instead, he visited South Africa with his parents, courtesy of the Province of Northern Transvall. He is still deciding whether to accept the contract they have offered him for their season which begins in October this year.

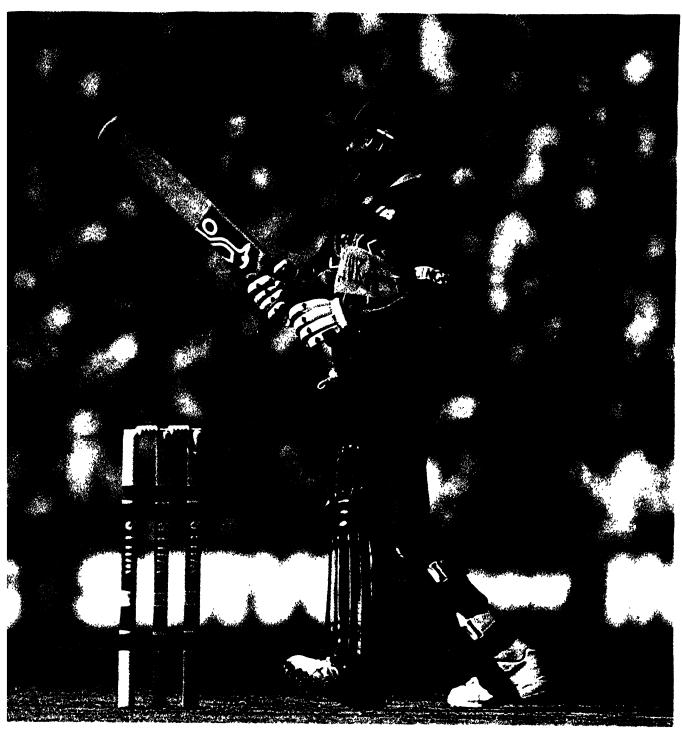
Aravinda rates his innings in the semi-finals and finals of the World Cup as his best ever. Only Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards have scored a hundred in a World Cup final, but in my opinion, his knock in the semi-final was sheer magic.

When asked how he rates the Sri Lanka team in the one day games and Tests, he replied "We are as good as any team in one day cricket. We need to improve on our fast bowling, to be competitive in the Tests. The home series against the Aussies is where we will get the opportunity to improve our Test performance."



Commenting on the Australian team and crowds, he said, "I hope their tour of Sri Lanka materialises and I am sure that the Aussies will be well treated, and their safety guaranteed. I have always enjoyed playing against Australia and I rate Australia as the best place to play cricket."

Asked to comment on the Sri Lankan sides of the mid-eighties to the present day, he said, "The commitment of the players to the game is greater now, and their approach is very professional. The experience of the senior players lends tremendous confidence to the side as well."



I asked him what he thought of the current administrative set-up of first class cricket in Sri Lanka. He replied, "The infrastructure in the country is still at a very basic level. We need more junior national cricket tours and a good A team. The present selectors are very good, largely because they're only relatively recent retirees from

the game. Trends in cricket today tend to change every six to seven months, and you have to keep up with new developments. That's what we've managed to do recently."

When asked about his other interests, he stated, "I find it difficult to think of life outside cricket now. But, I know I'll eventually do

something to support kids who are not privileged enough to play at the highest level, simply because of their background. I also intend to actively participate in the business ventures which I am already involved in. Playing at this level requires a lot of sacrifice if you are to be successful."

Asanka Seneviratne COURTESY LANKALINK

Thomas Muster is not everybody's favourite person. Nor is he everybody's favourite tennis player. The problem is, he doesn't really care. So there

RY ROBIN CHATTER JET

HERE is a serious paradox to
Thomas Muster. It is this: for
someone who is so ugly,
intimidating and aggressive
on court, how come his favourite
hobby is painting?

Snigger...almost like Count Dracula being a closet vegetarian.

Surprising, but that's how it is. And if you want further proof, all you have to do is take a flight to Monte Carlo, knock on the door of Muster's apartment and be greeted with his Muster strokes: oils in the style of Miro and Kandinsky—they fight for space on the walls presenting an almost kaleidoscopic vision. "They're nothing," Muster has been credited with saying. "It's better to have something colourful on the walls than white."

Muster is dismissive about his talents. Like he's equally casual about his skills with the drums. "It's mostly just noise," he'll argue.

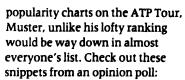
And what about the Ferrari in the garage? "I drive it less than 1,000 kilometres a day. It's just a toy."

Hmmm...dismissive did we say? It is actually the perfect word one is looking for when summing up the personality of Thomas Muster. And it is the secret of his success. The casual almost semi- detached way in which he slays his opponents on the court bears quiet testimony to the persona of Muster. It is therefore not surprising that if it comes to the



ERMINATOR!

When it comes to sheer dedication and discipline towards tennis no one can match



"He'd do anything to win, including taking you out. If Muster isn't the most hated player on the tour, he's a close second." Wayne Ferreira

"Muster is arrogant, unapproachable and standoffish. There's no reason to dislike him, but there's absolutely no reason to like him. "Former South African pro, Gary Muller

Muster has no respect for limited players, which is odd since he's limited himself. Stephen Noteboom

Why is Thomas Muster the 'proud' recipient of so much hate mail? Well it's like this, when you mock your opponents time without end, spit in their direction smash returns into their chests when you have an option of tapping it away, you do not expect people to love you. And Muster himself does not want to fool himself by saying that he does it unintentionally. Rather he takes the bold way out by explaining that "Such a hit intimidates the opponent. It shows him my strength and that I do not have the slightest consideration for him.I'm not Mr. Nice Guy. I'm a tough cookie"

Case closed.

Which is why no one was willing to give Muster credit for reaching the No. 1 ranking in a sport which has for so long been a target for debate as far as grading the excellence of its players is concerned. Which is precisely why, in a converse sort of way, Muster cannot be blamed for winning almost all the clay court tournaments on view on the ATP Tour. And that is precisely what he feels when he says that, "Making No.1 was great. But what am I supposed to do? Jump out the window of the 50th floor of a

building? Hang myself? Listen, no one is going to raise a flag for me 10 years from now.

Neither is Thomas Muster contemplating suicide. No one, who has won 12 tournaments in 1995 (11 were on clay, including the French Open) is going to try and kill himself. Definitely not Muster...not since he has already chalked up seven tournament wins in a row (going into the French Open) this year itself. It is ironic, however, when one considers the fact that Muster became world No.1 last year, when he beat Pete Sampras in the semifinals of an indoor carpet tournament in Essen, Germany. Since that historic day, Muster, Agassi and Sampras have all been jockeying for the top spot in tennis with fluctuating results. Till date, it is Pete Sampras who is holding the No. 1 ranking by only a handful of computer points.

Thomas Muster knows that during his reign as world No. 1, the ranking was almost always accompanied by an asterisk next to it. Which is why he explains himself saying, "Some people make me feel I have to excuse myself for being Number One. They talk like I got the points in a supermarket What do they expect me to do, write the computer a letter of apology?"

In many ways, Muster's elevation to tennis' top spot is a tribute not so much to his all-round tennis skills as it is to his strength of will and tenacity. He is a ferocious fighter, never asking for a break nor giving one. For him, the guy at the other side of the net has always been the enemy. Muster self confessedly does not love his opponents though he does admit to having respect for only a few. Back home in his native Austria the levels of affection for Muster, among his countrymen is equally confusing. For example, an Austrian newsweekly named him as the nation's Man Of



The Year in 1995 and his memoir, Aufschlag: Mein Leben (Service: My Life), is a best seller.

Does that mean that he is revered? On the contrary. "Austrians identify with artistry," explained sportswriter Michael Sabath, a journalist there adding that "Muster is not an artist. There's no love in his game, just strength and hard work."

Hard work. That has been Muster's power bar ever since he picked up a tennis racket. Born in the province of Styria(which is also Arnold Schwarzenegger's birthplace), Muster's father Heinz did a stint as an administrator in the army, while his mother, Inge, was in charge of the pro-shop at the Leibnitz country club. It was Muster's mother who inducted him into tennis and she made sure that he worked hard at it right from day one. Thomas went to play everyday in a tennis club in Graz, which meant that he had to travel for three and a half hours on buses and trains. "I'd do my homework on the train, come home at eight and do more homework," Muster recalls.

At the age of 16, Muster became the Austrian national champion and then, feeling that his game was going nowhere, he linked up with Ronnie Leitgib, a trained figure-skater who also happened to cover tennis for Austrian radio. Experts will obviously argue that Leitgib knew as much about tennis as Muster knew about nuclear physics, which is why the former let his ward handle the hard-core tennis aspects while he concentrated on tuning him up physically with marathon conditioning drills which on an average lasted up to eight hours.

The critics will argue that the reason for Muster's win is his indefatigible strength. Nothing is further away from the truth. Muster will testify that it is his psychological strength that makes him a winner. His dedication to himself and to his trade is unyielding, his in your-face attitude scary. Small wonder that fellow pro, Goran Ivanisevic feels that "The guy's so sure of himself, he could win on any surface. Not just clay, but carpet,

Muster's fellow pros love to hate him





outdoors, indoors. he could even will on water."

But can Muster win on grass? Afte all, when it comes to testifying to his greatness, fellow pros like Sampras and Agassi feel that Muster is 'limited since he cannot play on grass. To Muster's dis-credit, four successive first round losses at Wimbledon have not exactly strengthened his curriculum vitae. But that does not belittle his efforts to cope with the problem. Earlier this year, he took Austria to a first-round Davis Cup tie win over South Africa on grass in Johannesburg.

For a guy who's career nearly gave up on him on the night of March 31,1989, Muster's life and career has been one marked by struggle and hard work. He was 21 years old when he had just entered the Top 10 after having had a glorious year and Muste had just come back from being two sets down that night to beat Yannick Noah and reach the finals of the Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne. He wanted to celebrate that night, and had stopped his courtesy car at a restaurant in Miami. It turned out to be a fateful night in the life of Thomas Muster. As he collected his tennis gear from the car, the vehicle was struck head-on by another that was being manned by a drunk driver. As the courtesy car moved backwards onto Muster, it severed the medial collateral and anterior cruciate ligaments in his left knee. A dazed Muster tried to get up. "Just tell the trainer to strap it up and I'll play the final on one leg," he screamed at his coach Leitgib. While speaking, Muster tried to stand up when he realised that, "My leg was dead weight."

What followed after that was a series of operations, rest and after that, intensive rehabilitation. In the meanwhile, Muster did not forget to sue the driver from whom he won nearly \$2 million in damages last year. He also did not forget to appear confidently in public. Just when everyone thought that Muster would never pick up a racket again, he hobbled out to the Italian Open on crutches and spoke to the crowd



saying, "I want to come back next year and win the tournament." He did.

Muster's flirtation with hard work was brief and unrewarding. Even though he was back in the Top 10 by May, 1990 he had paid a big price for his success. What followed was another bout of injury coupled with complacence. The result was that Muster had a falling out with Ronnie Leitgib when he refused to prepare himself for the Australian Open. Leitgib in turn, rewarded his pupil by walking out on him. Muster decided to take out his frustrations on a pack of cigarettes a day, weight gain and serious partying in the discos. All this was termed by Leitgib as "serious freak-out." And then, after getting clobbered in six first round matches on clay, a vision dawned on Thomas Muster and he decided to go back to tennis. He also went back to Leitgib who rewarded him by "training the crap out of him." Six weeks later, with his singles ranking at 116, Muster won his first tournament in Florence. Six years later, Thomas Muster became world No.1.

Perhaps it is Muster's allergy to the media that makes him so interesting to them in the first place. Earlier this year, he had been accused of romancing Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York. The trouble did not stop there. Rather it started when he and Fergie chatted over a beer at a bash in the Gulf state of Qatar, after which Fergie actually showed up during one of his matches at the Australian Open.

Maybe this alleged romance has widened Muster's views about England. It could also explain in some small way why he is making plans for visiting Wimbledon this year. In fact, he'll prepare for it by appearing in two grass-court tournaments that precede the Big W. But till that day comes, Thomas Muster will be debating on a whole lot of things: for example, his fortunes at the French Open, why he is so allergic to grass, why the Austrians buy his books but continue to ignore him, why everyone thinks he's got a crush on Fergie and most importantly, why is he the most hated tennis player on this planet?



Q U

Z



QUESTIONS

How many courts are there at the Wimbledon?

Who in Wimbledon parlance, are the Toy Light People?

The first Wimbledon final in 1877 was postponed over the weekend. What was the reason?

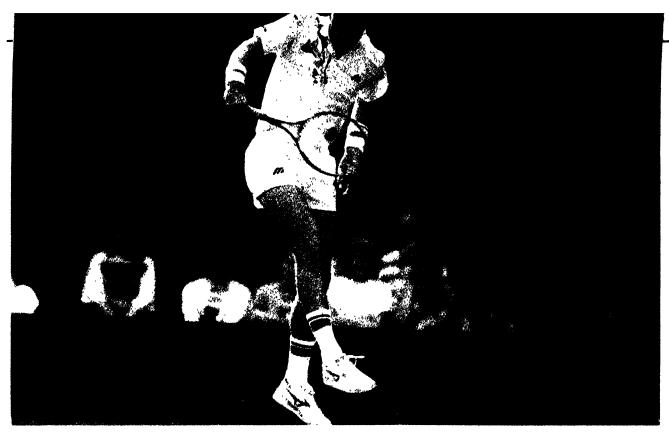
There is something unusual about the birthplace of Spencer Gore, the first ever men's singles champion at Wimbledon. What?

Wimbledon's grass is mowed to a uniform height. How high?

Each year on the
Saturday before the
Wimbledon tournament
begins the famed Centre
Court is tested. How?

What do Rod Laver, Fred Stolle, Chris Lewis and Boris Becker have in common?

Answer to Q. No.7



Answer to Q. No.13

Queen Elizabeth is the official patron of the tournament sure—but when did she visit the venue last?

On his debut at
Wimbledon he won
the singles, doubles and
mixed doubles crown. And
then never played again.
Who was this conquering
hero?

What exactly did John McEnroe promise to do if he lost to Chris Lewis in the 1983 finals?

Who figured in Wimbledon first all left-handed finals?

"To act in a James
Bond movie is an
unbelievable feeling but
winning on Centre Court
beats everything."Who
held this view?

ANSWERS

- 1. 18 including the Centre Court.
- 2 These are tennis fanatics who sleep on the pavement in front of the main gate at Wimbledon the night before the tournament begins so that they are the first to enter.

Because the dates of the Wimbledon final clashed with the Eton vs Harrow cricket match.

- 4 He was born in Wimbledon itself.
- ½ 3/16 inches.
- § Four elderly women play two sets of doubles on court.

All of them were unseeded players who reached the final. Boris Becker is the only one who went on to win the title.

- 1 In 1977, Wimbledon's centenary year.
- Bobby Riggs.
- Jump off the Empire State Building.
- Neale Fraser and Rod Laver in 1960. Fraser won the title by 6-4, 3-6, 9-7 and 7-5.
- *? Vijay Amritraj, who acted with the James Bond-Roger Moore in the film *Octopussy* but never won a title at Centre Court although he was truly a majestic player.
- 13 Ivan Lendl. He entered the finals twice but on both occasions finished as the second best.
- 14 1927
- 15. Bjorn Borg of Sweden and Andrea Jaeger of the U.S. Borg was 17 years and 19 days and Jaeger was 15 years and 19 days.
- 16. Althea Gibson.
- 17. Thrice. First in 1957, 1962 and 1977.

"Grass surfaces are fit only for cows to graze on"
Wimbledon's grass courts were described thus by one of the most unluckiest player ever to play at Wimbledon. Name the legend who retired last year?

In which year was the first running commentary broadcast over radio from Wimbledon?

Who were the youngest players to be top-seeded at Wimbledon?

Zina Garrison was the second black player to reach the finals at Wimbledon. Who was the first?

How many times the Queen has honoured the All England Club with her presence? Compiled by Suresh Parekh, Rajkot

WIMBLEDON

COMPILED BY PAUL FEIN

OW a Wimbledon committee man denounced renowned fashion designer Ted Tinling in 1949 when Wimbledon banned him (for 33

Y UMBER of times that Margaret Smith Court beat Billie Jean King after 18-year-old King upset No. 1 seeded Court at the 1962 Wimbledon Championships: 14.

HAT Englishman John Lloyd said was "the most special moment in my life." "Standing up there with the (1983 Wimbledon) mixed doubles cup in my hands."

> 'HAT the ballboys used to sell at Wimbledon: Sweaty towels that Gabriela Sabatini had used in her matches.

ORMER Wimbledon champion whose electronically timed 10-meter sprint was faster than that of track superstars Ben Johnson and Carl Lewis, as recorded at the 1987 World Championships: Pat Cash.

HAT John McEnroe vowed he'd do if 17-year-old French Open champion Michael Chang got to the 1989 Wimbledon final: "I will drop my pants on Centre Court."

NLY Wimbledon final that featured two players who were in litigation with each other : 1975 (Arthur Ashe vs. Jimmy Connors).

HAT Tracy Austin once did between sets of a match she played at Wimbledon: She applied nail polish.

HE secret of Stefan Edberg's 1988 Wimbledon triumph, according to his then girlfriend Annette Olsen: He refused to cut his hair during the fortnight because he wanted the strength of Samson."





OHN McENROL'S main goal at the 1990 Wimbledon: "Not to get suspended out of the U.S. Open (for exceeding the \$7,500 limit on fines)."

HAT Wimbledon officials decreed about female attire in 1962 for The Championships: Women may wear only "all-white" panties.

HE requests by photographers that Martina Navratilova denied at the 1977 Wimbledon Championships: She refused to cover up her muscles.



UMBER of people who watched the practice session of Anna Dmitrieva and A. Potanin, the first Soviets ever to play at Wimbledon, in 1958: 1, 000.

ONTENT of the nightmare that haunted Goran Ivanisevic every night for two months in 1992: He saw Andre Agassi holding the Wimbledon champion's trophy aloft, and all he could do is scream that the wrong player was declared the winner.

HAT three-time champion
John Newcombe likened
Wimbledon to: "making love a
hundred times to the most
beautiful woman you ever saw."
HAT British suffragettes
unsuccessfully plotted to
do in 1913: Burn down the
Centre Court at Wimbledon.

IZE of the Melbourne crowd who turned out to welcome I ome Margaret Smith in 1963 after she became Australia's first Wimbledon women's champion: 100,000 people. UTHOR of a 1968 letter, appearing in *The London Times*, that strongly condemned the great disparity in prize money for the men and women at the first "open" Wimbledon: Lady Spencer Churchill, Sir Winston's widow.

hat former British star Virginia Wade called it when fearful Ivan Lendl skipped the 1982, Wimbledon Championships, claiming he was allergic to grass: "The biggest chicken out of all time."





HAT Martina Navratilova called "the most embarrassing thing I ever went through." When her improperly fastened skirt slid down as she made a winning volley in the opening game of her 1983 Wimbledon final against Andrea Jaeger.

HAT fervent Andre Agassi fans rhymed in chorus during his heartbreaking 1994 Wimbledon loss to Todd Martin: "Andre, Andre, you've got class Give us a wave, wiggle your..." (you-know-what).

* UMBER of tournaments that

Olga Morozova had played
outside the Soviet Union before
she won the Wimbledon junior
title in 1956 at age 16: O.

HEN three-time
Wimbledon champion
John Newcombe predicts
19-year-old Australian Mark
Philippoussis will break into the
world's top 10: Within 15 months

OW much charity work
1987 Wimbledon champion
Pat Cash says he does: "Probably
twice as much as any other
player."

LAYER that the ballboys and ballgirls rated their favorite in a poll at the 1995 Wimbledon Championships: Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

HAT Boris Becker said he learned from defending champion Pat Cash during their 1988 Wimbledon quarterfinal match: "Some new curse words in English."

** UMBER of times in a 13-second period that John McEnroe used the profane f-word at Wimbledon in 1991:8.

OTAL number of break points that Pete Sarripras faced on his serve during the 1993-95 Wimbledon finels, which he has



in 1987 purportedly explaining Boris Becker's shocking early-round upset loss to Australian Peter Doohan at Wimbledon: "Too Much Sex Beats Big Boris."

HAT shapely Pat Stewart, a part-time underwear model wore at Wimbledon in 1961: Panties with her phone number embroidered on the back.

OW Carling Bassett once won a \$100 bet from Chris Evert at Wimbledon: Bassett dared to appear bare-breasted at the dressing room window overlooking the milling crowd on the main promenade.

** UMBER of times that Ion Tiriac, in 1990, predicted that Goran Ivanisevic will win Wimbledon: 5. UMBER of the first 12 questions asked Steffi Graf in her 1993 post-first round Wimbledon press conference that were about a heckler in the crowd: 12.

HAT 'The Times' of London said Andre Agassi, in his all-white attire—white denim shorts, white thigh warmers, white shirt, white socks and white shoes—looked like at Wimbledon in 1991 "A three-tiered wedding cake."

IGHEST grunt measurement recorded on *The Sun's* "Gruntometer" for women at the 1990 Wimbledon: Monica Seles's 82 decibels ("Between a pneumatic drill and a diesel train").





THAT German Davis Cup coach Boris Breskvar declared when unseeded Lori McNeil upset Steffi Graf in the first round at the 1994 Wimbledon: "The Steffi Graf era is over."

THY Evonne Goolagong believed her 1979 semifinal against Chris Evert was one of the lousiest ever played at Wimbledon: Because "both Chris and I had the worst day of our period."

My JUMBER of consecutive years in prior to 1982 that Princess Diana had attended Wimbledon: 10.

UMBER of security men who accompanied Gabriela Sabatini at the 1994 Wimbledon Championships: 9. John Feaver blasted against John Newcombe in a 1976 Wimbledon match: 42.

I UMBER of phone calls Englishman Chris Bailey said he received "from ladies who wanted to know me better" after he came within an ace of upsetting Goran Ivanisevic at the 1993 Wimbledon: 500.

HAT Jimmy Connors frequently referred to during the changeovers throughout the 1975 Wimbledon final against Arthur Ashe: A note he kept inside his socks that contained a message from his grandmother.

OST of a pair of tickets for the 1994 Wimbledon men's singles final on the black market: \$3,000.

"the turning point of my career": When she beat Martina Navratilova 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 in the 1988 Wimbledon final.

EASON why coach Billie
Lean King did not allow
Martina Navratilova to read press
clippings during the 1990
Wimbledon which she won:
"Because she always gets upset
when she does."

TAR players who have worn AIDS ribbons on their shirts during Wimbledon matches: Pete Sampras and Martina Navratilova.

EASON why quarterfinalist Kevin Curren was fined \$500 for misconduct at the 1990 Wimbledon: "Abuse of photocopying machine."

Wonders on the Wildlife



Adventure



Camping



Project



Heritage



Familial



Expedition



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There's something for everybody.

OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN SECTION

IS HE GOING



TOBEKING PROFESSIONAL SPORT AGAIN?

CARL LEWIS, for so long, the forgotten king of international athletics, has bounced back with brilliant runs in the 100m and 200m. Suddenly he is a contender for a medal, maybe, even a gold medal in this summer's Atlanta Olympics

BY WILLIAM RHODES

OU'VE got to admire Carl Lewis. He is no longer the champion in the 100m. He is no longer the champion of the 200 metres. And finally, he is no longer the champion in the long jump. But still, he is getting press notices all the time. That gives us an image of the man-forceful, dominating, charismatic, full of life and spirit. He might come fourth in the 100 metres, like what happened in the '93 World Athletic Championships but even before Linford Christie finished his celebratory jog around the stadium, Lewis had already given three interviews.

Amazing guy really. You've got to admire him for his panache and style But this is a man who deserves to be celebrated for his singular athletic achievements: he has won eight Olympic gold medals, several world championship medals, and world records. (See Box). It is amazing that in this Atlanta Olympics, he is competing in the fourth straight Olympics in a row.

But what has brought him really into the spotlight recently is his form in the 100m. Suddenly he seems to be

a threat. In the 100m at the Atlanta Grand Prix last month, he ran his best 100m in five years, clocking 9.94 sec. He didn't win, but finished second to Dennis Mitchell but he was ahead of Donovan Bailey, the world champion.

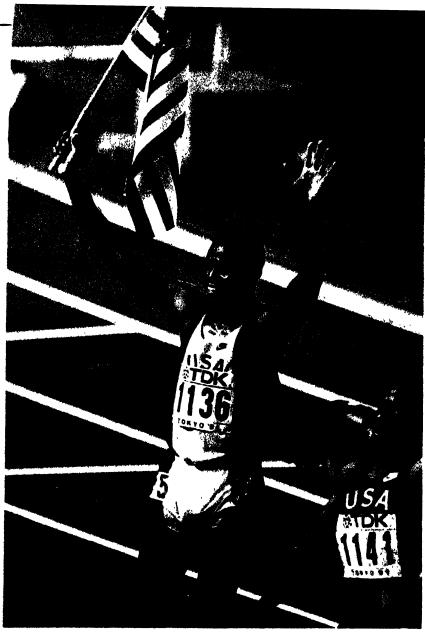
"I don't think the time surprised him," said Mike Tahata, a sprint coach with the University of Houston, where Lewis trains, "if anything surprised him, it was the fact that he was able to accelerate all the way through. That part of his race has been lacking since 1991. A lot of it is that he's more motivated than he has been in some time.

"He knows this is probably his last Olympics and he wants to go out with a bang. He wants people to know that he's still alive. Because of sickness and injuries, his level of fitness was not very high at the end of last year. He has lost a lot of his base and his reserve was tapped out. Now he's training harder than he has for several years."

"I feel like my old self once again,"Lewis affirmed. He will turn 35, when the Atlanta Olympics comes up.

I asked him, "Don't you think your age is going to be against you?"

"I don't know what a 35-year-old feels like," Lewis said, with a smile, "So t don't make any concessions to age. I don't know what age is doing to



THE OLYMPICS

'84 Los Angeles Olympics: golds in 100m:long jump;200m;4 x 400m relay. '88 Secul Olympics: golds in 100m; long jump.
'92 Barcelona Olympics: golds in the long jump; 4 x 400m relay.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

'83 Helsinki: golds in 100m; long jump; 4 x 400m relay.
'87 Rome: golds in 100m; long jump; 4 x 400m relay.
'91 Tokyo: golds in 100m; long jump.

'93 Stuttgert: bronze in 200m.

Has won 17 gold medals in the Olympics and the World Championships.

Has had a ten year winning streak of 65 consecutive wins in the long jump from Feb '81 to Aug '91.

Has set world records in the 100m and the 4 x 100 and the 4 x 400m relay

Carl Lewis celebrates after breaking the 100m world record in the '91 World Athletics championships at Tokyo

me unless I feel it. I still have great workouts. I'm strong. I feel that I just have to play this thing out, to see how far I can last."

Lewis' one great advantage is that not only is this return to form welcome, but he has a tremendous psychological effect on his opponents.

"No matter what happened," he recalled, "I was in everyone's head. They had to run the race right out of the blocks, a perfect start because they knew that Carl was coming on at the finish. The last couple of years, I didn't have my finish. I didn't even have a

"He knows that this is probably his last Olympics, and he wants to go out with a bang. He wants people to know that he is alive."—Mike Takaha, sprint coach at the University of Houston, where Lewis trains

start. But I have that brish now and my start has improved dramatically."

He is still keen to improve, keen to learn more in an event in which he has been the master for the past so many years. For example, he is now working on a new starting stance. That is, leaning more into the starting blocks, with which he hopes to have a faster first step. His trademark middle race acceleration still works and of course, he is one of the fastest finishers in 100m sprint history. Recently, he has also run a few 200m races and clocked this season, the sixth fastest 200m race in history. So then, he is a contender for a 200m gold also.

So we will have to wait and see what is going to happen. Maybe, he could perform the miracle; in the centenary year of the Olympics, in his own country, Carl Lewis could sign off with an Olympic gold medal. That would be a fitting testament to one of the greatest careers in athletics.

OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN SECTION

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

LINFORD CHRISTIE
keeps insisting that
he will not defend his
100m crown at the
Atlanta Olympics this
year. But so far, no one
in the athletic
community believes
it to be true

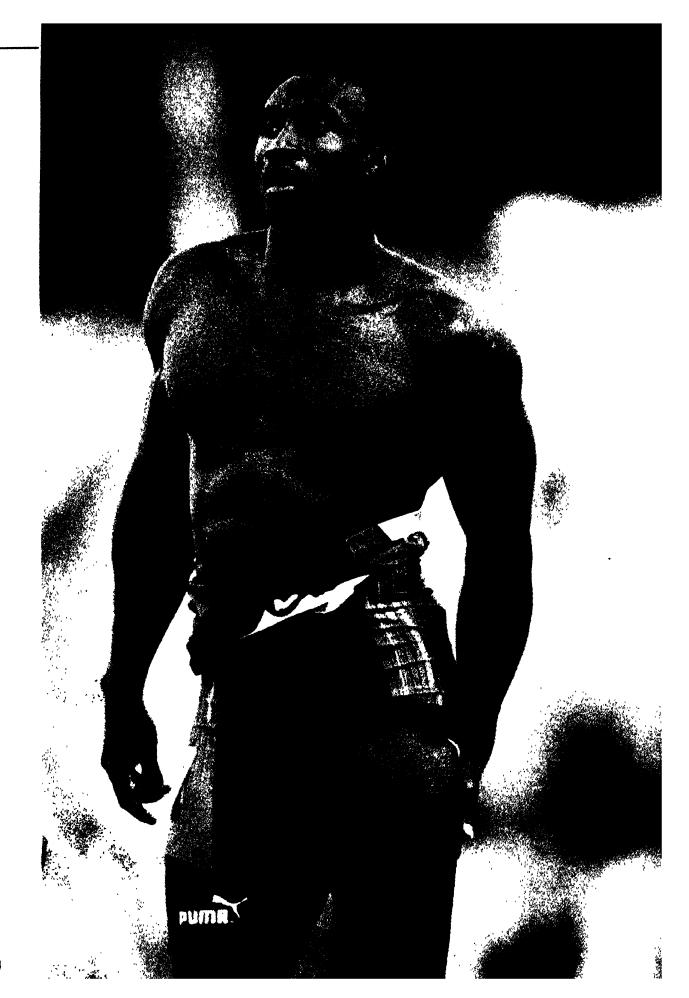
VERYBODY thinks that
Linford Christie is playing a
game. He keeps saying that
he won't be taking part in
the Atlanta Olympics, and nobody
believes him. The athletics
community feels that he is trying to
pull the wool over their eyes.

"He's fooling no one," Carl Lewis said, "I expect to see him in Atlanta." Added current world champion, Donovan Bailey, "He's playing games with us and no one's taking any notice."

If Christie takes part and goes on to win the 100m, he will be the first athlete to win the event at two Games. That would be making history. In the process, he would also lay claim to being the greatest sprinter in the 100m. That is going to be difficult, considering Carl Lewis' brilliant achievements in the same event. So the chances of Christie taking part is quite bright.

"He will go," confirms Alan Wells, who won the 100m gold in the '80





Moscow Olympic Games, "Linford is dealing with something not many people have a chance to deal with. He was second in 1988 in Seoul after Ben Johnson was disqualified. Then he won it in 1992. If he wins again, there would be no question of who is the greatest sprinter ever. Deep down, that's what he's probably looking at."

Another untold reason for his participation could be the likely commercial benefits that he can get for himself. Because if he wins another gold medal, then that would mean millions of dollars in commercial and endorsement deals from companies all around the world. Already Puma, with whom he has a contract, have offered an incentive of 75,000 sterling pounds if he wins the gold and this is above the 120,000 sterling pounds retainer that he earns every year. He is a shrewd businessman and he knows what a gold medal can do to his earnings at the fag end of his career. After all, at 35, he is not getting any younger.

So the question is, can he do it? He started the 1996 season with a victory at Arnsberg in Germany, with a time of 10.20 secs. That's not bad, considering that this was the first race of the season. Incidentally, he began his 1992 and 1993 seasons with worser times and won Olympic and World Championship titles later on in

Adds Allan Wells, "He has an old head on a young body. Old in that he knows what it is all about: how to prepare for the Olympics and what he needs to do. He can do it again."

It's been a tough time for him so far. Last year, he broke down on television. and stated that he wanted to quit, because the pressures were too much; he said that he would not defend his Olympic crown. Of course, now he says that all that talk of quitting was done in the heat of the moment, because his mother was dying at that time.

From recent reports, it is clear that he has bounced back and has been training with the same degree of commitment that he has shown in the last decade. It will be interesting to see

DONOVAN BAILEY

Canada Age: 28 PB: 9.91

Achievements: 1995

world 100 metres champion

Strongth: The man on the way up

Weakness: Lack of Olympic experience

Gold medal petential: 8 our of 10

ATO BOLDON

PR: 9.93 Achievements: 1992 world junior 100 metres champion, 1995 world 100

metres bronze medallist Strongth: Youth and speed

Weakness: Raw style

Gold model potential: 6 out of 10

FRANKIE FREDERICKS

Nemihia

Age: 28

PB: 9.95

Achievements: 1992 Olympic 100 metres silver medallist, 1993 world 200

metres champion

Strength: Sustained speed

Weakness: Poor start

Gold medal potential: 6 out of 10

CARL LEWIS

United States

Age: 35

PR: 9.86

Achievements: 1984 and 1988 Olympic 100 metres champion, 1983, 1987

and 1991 world 100 metres champion, former world record holder

Strangth: Reputation of early part of career

Weakness: His recent reputation

Gold medal potential: 5 out of 10

BRUNY SURIN

Ceneda

Aug: 28

Achievements: 1993 and 1995 world indoor 60 metres champion, 1995

world 100 metres silver medallist

Strongth: First 60 metres

Weakness: Last 40

Gold model potential: 5 out of 10

MIKE MARSH

United States

Age: 28

PB: 9.93

Achievements: 1992 Olympic 200 metres champion

Strength: Two years concentrated effort on shorter sprint

Weekness: Lacks ability to maintain full speed over distance

Gold medal potential: 4 out of 10 Samuel State

how he is going to do at Atlanta. His rivals have already sounded warnings (see box).

So watch this space in July, to see what finally happened in the 100m at the Atlanta Olympic Games.

MAY BE KING OF GREECE BUT YOU'RE A GREEK GOD!



DLYMPIC COUNTDOWN SECTIO

SPYRIDON LOUIS
became a legend when
he won the first-ever
marathon in the 1896
Games and made his
fellow Greeks go mad
with joy. Here is a
step-by-step account of
that momentous ocassion

HE crowds had been growing since the early hours of the morning, and the police were having more and more trouble containing them. All the roads around the stadium were congested. Many Greek citizens had come to witness the triumph of one of their compatriots in the marathon race.

Since the start of the Games, the idea that only a local runner could win this race, with its historic tradition rooted in Greece's heritage, had gained ground. In the afternoon of Friday, 10th April 1896, the twenty-five competitors had been transported to an inn in Maratho, near the start of the race, where they spend the night. The following day, at around 2.00 p.m., the aspiring medallists, who now numbered only seventeen, assembled in two lines, taking positions that had been determined by a draw. After a speech by the starter, Major Papadiamantopoulos, the runners were off, accompanied by cyclists, officials, mounted soldiers, and also doctors who were responsible for making sure none of them collapsed.

The French runner Lermusiaux gradually broke away, and in 52 minutes he had reached the town of Pikermi. Three kilometres further back, Flack of Australia, Black of the United States and Kellner of Hungary emerged, followed by the Greek runners, who were led by Loannis Lavrentis from Maroussi. All along the route, crowds of farmers cheered on

the runners enthusiastically, with no hint of national favouritism. After Pikermi, some of the runners began to flag and eventually disappeared into the huge bottlenecks to the rear.

Spyridon Louis from Maroussi stopped at an inn and swallowed a glass of red wine in a single draught. He asked about the athletes who were ahead of him, and boasted that, not only would he catch up with them, but he would overtake them and win the race.

Black withdrew at the 23rd kilometre, allowing Vassilakos to pull into third place. In Harvati, Albin Lermusiaux was still in the lead. followed by Edwin Flack. The laurel wreath prepared by the village was given to the Parisian, who continued his race toward glory. Like his adversaries, he glided under the many triumphal arches that had been erected by enthusiastic spectators. But Lermusiaux had to stop for his trainer, Guisel, to administer some first aid. As he was having his legs massaged with alcohol, the Australian Edwin Flack got his opportunity to slip into the lead.

Spyridon Louis was quietly catching up, escorted by a crowd of supporters from Maroussi who lined the route and cheered him on. At the 32nd kilometre, Lermusiaux dropped out. The event then began to come to a head. At the 33rd kilometre, the unflappable Louis caught up with Edwin Flack and overtook him, but could not loosen the Australian's grip. On their heels were Kellner of Hungary, Vassilakos, and an energetic young Greek named Spyridon Belokas.

At the 37th kilometre, a few kilometres from Ambelokipi, Louis, who had probably had enough of Flack clinging to his heels, went on the offensive. His first attempt to accelerate paid off and the Australian, seeing victory slip out of his grasp, dropped behind. Flack's second, an Englishman, asked a Greek spectator tolock after the athlete while he went to seek help. Flack was delirious, probably as a result of the strychnine which his coach had administered, and thought he was being attacked.

He threw a right hook to his guardian's face, knocking him to the ground, before collapsing, unconscious, in a car.

Louis arrived alone at the Rizarios school, where a pistol shot announced his imminent arrival at the Olympic stadium. Now that a Greek victory was virtually assured, the crowd lining the streets could no longer contain its enthusiasm and excitement.

However, doubt still reigned in the Olympic stadium. No information on the development of the race had arrived. It was 4:30 and the crowd's impatience was becoming increasingly difficult to control. Although the pole-vaulting event being disputed in the middle of the arena distracted the spectators momentarily, everyone's mind was on the marathon and Greece's victory. Their victory.

Suddenly, a rumour went out that Flack was about to arrive. The German cyclist Goedrich apparently had spread the news. Faces froze, conversation faltered, and the stadium, which had been so noisy just a few seconds before, fell into a heavy silence.

Fortunately, this moment of tension was very short, as Major Papadiamantopoulos entered the stadium on horse back and approached the royal stand to announce:"Louis is in the lead". The news spread around the tiered seats like wildfire and a great clamour arose from the 70,000 spectators: "A Greek is in the lead!" The excitement reached a climax when the chief of police went on horseback from Kilissia Avenue to announce to the crowd that had gathered on Herod-Atticus Road that Spyridon Louis was well ahead and that the winner would be a Greek. His words were greeted with applause.

A white-clad runner entered the stadium from the right. It was Louis, the first Greek Olympic champion, followed by a cohort of applauding officials. Princess Constantine and George went to run alongside him. When the athlete reached the official



stand, the king bowed in a gesture of respect. Louis was by no means exhausted by his feat. Constantine and George hoisted him onto their shoulders and, followed by Prince Nicholas, bore him aloft to the king, who had risen to stand before the marble throne.

What happened in the stadium is difficult to describe. The sailor who had been appointed to raise the winner's colours on the tallest flagpole did not wait for the other competitors to arrive. At the sight of runner number 17's flag, joy exploded. Dandies threw their hats into the air, and people waved handkerchiefs and small Greek flags frantically. An entire nation celebrated Louis' victory, their own victory. The public called upon the orchestra to play the national anthem.

It was a magical moment. A

The King of Greece awarding the gold medal to Spyridon Louis

beautiful rich American widow had announced before the event that she would marry the winner, whoever he was. At the end of the race, amid the general excitement, Spyridon Louis was covered in a sea of flowers, hats and even handbags...and the American lady threw him a very pretty ring. But she slipped away without keeping her promise. Louis was carried to the changing room. He had covered the 40 kilometres of the event in 2 hours 58.5 seconds.

Louis was a strongly built shepherd who wore the traditional fustanella and knew nothing of scientific training methods. He had prepared with a regimen of fasting and prayer. It is said that he spent the night before

the race praying to religious icons by candlelight.

After Louis's victory, the town of Maroussi went mad. As the inhabitants were very poor, they offered him a year's free shaving, his own table in a restaurant for the same period, and a lifetime supply of coffee. But he was a simple and unaffected man, and after refusing all of these privileges accepted only two gifts: a horse and a cart, which would enable him to continue his work as a water-carrier.

Spyridon Louis was born in 1872 in Maroussi, where he lived all his life, and became a hero. On 26 March 1940 the first Olympic champion died and became a legend.

Alain Lunzenfichter courtesy: OLYMPIC REVIEW

Optimistic

T'S really nice to learn that
Sandip Patil knows the
probable outcome of his current
appointment. It will take him
either to the heights of glory or to
the depths of failure. But we are
very optimistic as regards Sandip
Patil's capabilities but
simultaneously we are also aware
that the present Indian team do
lack a sense of commitment,
barring a few.

So, it would be highly beneficial if Sandip Patil tries to inflict the same into their heads.

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack.



Sandip Patil: glory or ignominy

New Selectors needed

E VERYBODY had talked about changing the Indian captain after the World Cup fiasco but I think, before we do that, we have to change the national selectors. They have miserably failed with their unimaginative team selections over the past few years. The way cricket is played now, the present selectors are a misfit for the job.

We should now have Pataudi,

Srikkanth, Ravi Shastri, and Kapil Dev, to name a few, as the selectors. They have the experience and the right attitude to build up a young, dynamic team for the future.

The BCCI should act immediately in this regard, even if it means that the constitution has to be amended accordingly.

S.ROYCHOWDHURY, New Delhi

Dismal

N the Azlan Shah and Hamburg hockey tournaments, the performance of the Indian hockey team has been dismal. The Atlanta Olympics is just around the corner and if the disappointing performances of the Indian team are any indication, then it can safely be asserted that India might not even win a bronze, let alone a gold.

PRAHLAD AGARWALA, Nadia

Very Informative

OUR article of vital statistics of the World Cup (Sportsworld, 10th April) was very informative. It was good to see so many old records being broken and so many new ones being set. Although India did not make it to the finals, Sachin Tendulkar and Anil Kumble emerged as the highest run-getter and wicket-taker respectively.

Dr. A.K.DAS, Bihar.

Keen Rivalry

OUR cover story,
(Sportsworld, 8th May)
revealed the rivalry between
Mike Atherton and Mohammad
Azharuddin. There is no doubt
that Atherton is not an able
captain. But that does not mean
that our captain should also be
mediocre like Atherton.

C.K.SUBRAMANIAM, Calcutta.

Down-To-Earth

SHEVLIN SEBASTIAN'S
Freewheeling
(Sportsworld,8th May) was, by
far, the most down-to-earth
piece on Azhar's present
predicament. His is a classic case
of misplaced values of life, after
being catapulted from lower
middle class moorings to riches
and fame.

Azhar has to get his priorities right or he should quit.

PRABHA MITRA Hvderabad.

Texcellently showed the depression in the life of our most successful captain ever, Mohd. Azharuddin. This is an earnest appeal to our dear captain, to please take note of the sentiments of millions of cricket-crazy fans. We still have the faith that Azhar will rise up like a bright sun from behind the mountains and lead his team to heights.

All that the team needs right now is a combined effort of the captain, the vice-captain and the other talented players like Ajay Jadeja, Jawagal Srinath, Anil Kumble and Sanjay Manjrekar.

SANGEETA BARUAH, Assem

SERVICE WITH A SINILE

Lady caddies are slowly making their presence felt on the international circuit. Of course, the most famous of them has been Fanny Sunesson, caddie to Nick Faldo. But now, golfers' wives have taken to caddying to save up on costs

BY I S VENKATARAMAN

OW the game of golf has changed. The thought of a lady lugging a heavy pro bag on the fairways would have been considered ludicrous, and probably frowned upon, by the purists of the game not too long ago. US tour player Ken Green was one of the first professionals to engage a member of the fairer sex to carry his bag—in his case, his sister. Since then female caddies have become a familiar sight on the world circuits, the best known being Nick Faldo's caddy Fanny Sunesson.

Lady caddies are not renowned for their sartorial judgement under normal circumstances. In fact, you can usually spot them on their way to golf courses not by their golf bags and clubs but by their garish trousers and silly hats. Not however, if they are Nick Faldo's caddy Fanny Sunesson. Then she might been seen wearing a pringle sweater in a becoming burgundy shade or possibly something in trendy teal blue with

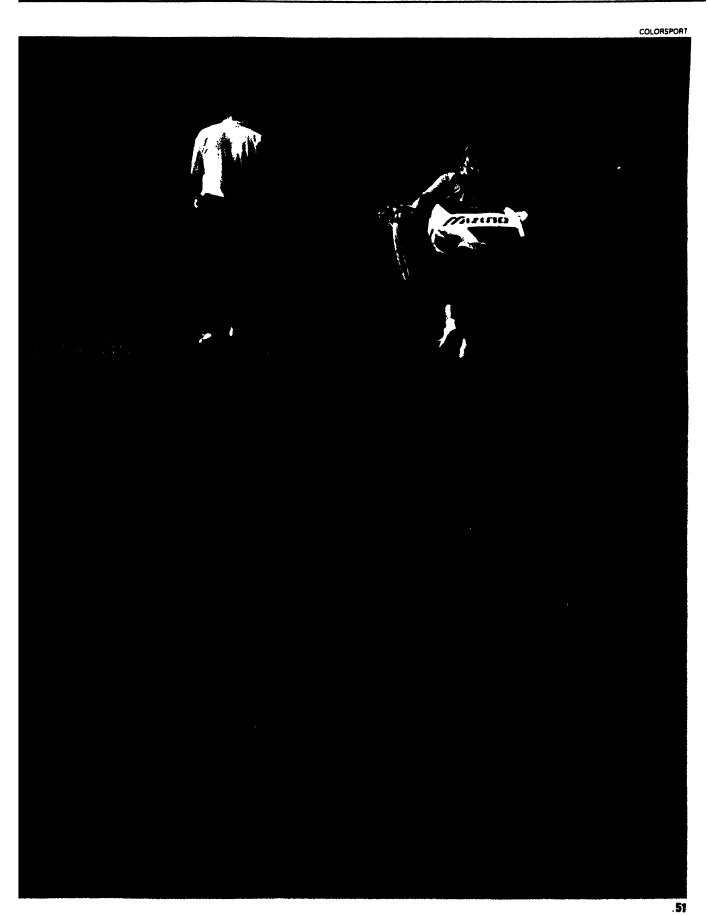
toning trousers or light blue jeans matching the sweater and sports shoe. She has the 'Burberry' look and this millionaire's dress collection is so successful that Nick Faldo could well find himself in the designing business, should his prowess with a putter begin to elude him.

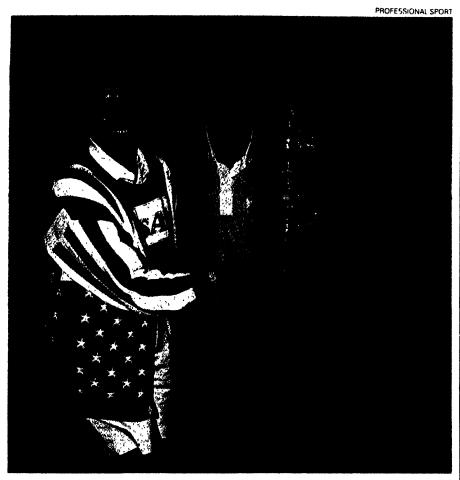
American Phillip Hatchett, together with his wife Beth, were the first husband and wife team to play on a tour, and it was largely due to them that Hannarie Fouchee took on the job of carrying husband Ben's bag.

Economics was the primary motivation, and as Ben says, "I wasn't playing that well, and it was becoming rather expensive for the two of us to travel the tour together."

After playing with Phil Hatchett, the decision was taken to train former schoolteacher Hannarie in the art of caddying and save a large chunk of

Caddy Fenny Sunesson with Nick Felde (mein picture and inset): she was the one who made caddying for ladies a respectable profession





their budget.

"It wasn't easy", the soft-spoken Mrs Fouchee says, as she recalls her first encounter with the bag which became her constant companion. "Never having played the game, there was a lot to learn, but Ben was very patient", she disclosed.

While measuring yardages and reading putts is left to the man of the house, Hannarie has certainly showed her worth in the psychological side of the game. "I have always maintained that Ben has to firmly believe in himself, and I try to keep him from despairing when things aren't going well," she says, adding that life on tour is not always a bed of roses. "I have shed many a tear in the execution of my duties, but I know now that part of a caddie's job is to absorb some of the player's frustration, even if it means a tongue-lashing for something I had nothing to do with."

The practical problems of having one's wife on the tour are something

the Fouchees have had to deal with. "After a hectic week of dealing with all the pressures of a tournament, I go home on Monday and do the washing and ironing, and the rest of a housewife's chores."

An important rule which the Fouchees adhere to, is never to take their work home. "One big drawback of being on the tour is that I don't have enough time with Ben to discuss normal issues; after all, lately it's been golf, golf and more golf," says she.

If Ben Fouchee continues to play the way he has since recruiting his new, better-looking caddit, Hannarie is likely to discover that this job pays a lot better than schoolteaching.

Hannarie launched a look-all-of-het-own.
She is slender and svelte but prefers outsize T-shirts and the blue shorts which are being enthusiastically taken up by her fans.

A man who has employed his fiancee to caddie for him is 1993 SA Open champion Clinton Whitelaw. American Ryder Cup captain David Wheaton with the trophy, celebrating with h wife.

After his win at Glendower, Leanne joined Clinton on his campaign in Europe and America at while the game has been below expectations, Leanne believes that h man is fast regaining the form which saw him triumph last year.

"I realise that at least 60% of my jo is to be Clinton's on-course psychologist," she says. "Clinton wa expecting a lot of himself after the Open, and I could see how frustrated he was becoming after missing the cuts."

While Clinton also undertook the training of his new caddie, Leanne had walked many a round with him, and realised that the person carrying the bag has to put up with a lot of fla

"I love my job as caddie, and apart from one occasion when a problem of the course caused unpleasantness at home, which I now regret, we keep our personal lives apart from our life on the course."

But Leanne has a eye—for beauty She always prefers wearing something cut and styled all in one. She is not merely posing as a fashion model (a very fast fashion model) an she is looking for the lightest possible outfit to give her more freedom to move and she hopes to win more far

Leanne, unlike other lady caddies, gets totally involved in the measurin of yardages, as well as reading putts, and began playing herself in order to get a better understanding of the gam

"I believe that it is possible to become a little too technical on the greens, and give Clinton lines as they first appear to me, without going through all the meticulous scrutiny."

According to Leanne, due largely ther influence, we shall see a new Clinton Whitelaw who is working hard on both his game and his physical fitness.

"One gains the impression after speaking to the lady caddies of the tour that they're much like all the rest—when he plays well it's 'we', when he plays badly it's 'him' said John Botha, the veteran sports journalist"

SPECIAL MOTORSPORT SECTION DOWN THE HILL

DAMON HILL, who began this season with a bang, is floundering a little now. Will he be able to hold off the challenge of Michael Schumacher and become World Champion for the first time?

" ITH the trials and tribulations of the 1995 season firmly behind him, Damon

Hill looked forward to the challenges of 1996. Of course, he began the season in a tremendous manner, winning the first four races in a row, but then in the last two races, held at Barcelona and Monte Carlo, he did not finish the race. But he is optimistic and hopeful of completing a job which he started just three years ago.

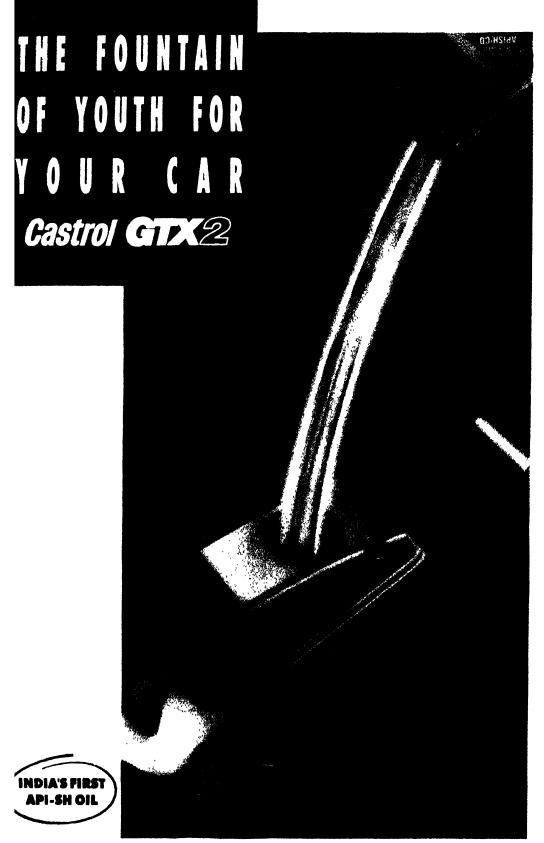
Hill joined Alam Prost in the Wilhams Grand Prix team in 1993 after test driving for the team for the previous two years. But once he started racing, he has won, before this season started, a remarkable 13 grand prix victories and two runners-up positions in the World Championships and staggering media battles with double world champion Michael Schumacher.

35-year-old Hill knows that the time is now right for his final push towards his ultimate ambition of winning the World Drivers' championships, which his late father Graham won in '62 and '68. After finishing second for the past two years, he is committed to winning this year. At this moment, he has 43 points while Schumacher and Villeneuve are on 26 each. There is not too much of a gap and, if he doesn't watch out, he might lose the title again this year.

"Losing the title last year was more disappointing than the previous

Damon Hill has won four races this season. But Schumacher is putting up a spirited challenge.





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SPOTLIGHT



season, because I started so well," explained Hill, who lives in Ireland with his wife Georgie, son Joshua and daughter Tabitha. "I had lingering hopes but they seemed to slip through my fingers. It was a tough year with more downs than ups. Perhaps I wanted to win too much last season, and let it rip at the wrong moment. But when you see the opportunity, the temptation is enormous. To become world champion is a massive goal, but I now realise that you must not allow yourself to be drawn in—it's a matter of control."

This year, Hill's great rival, World Champion, Michael Schumacher has moved to Ferrari from the all-conquering Benetton Renault team. Many experts think that ,Schumacher's switch to Ferrari will give Hill an even greater chance for the title. The British driver does not agree.

"Michael seems to have had an advantage over everyone last year and I think that he can carry that to Ferrari," said Hill. "I will never give up the fight to become World Champion and that will always be my target for the future. Despite the downs, I also had some of my best races last season. I raised my game and fought with Schumacher all the way. I didn't have all the ingredients in 1994 but last year, I feel I drove a lot better."

Hill's much publicised clashes with Schumacher brought him plenty of bad press, especially at home in England, where previously, he was being hailed as a national champion. Hill accepts that he is in a position to be shot down in a sport that attracts so much media attention worldwide.

"I'm ptepared to take the rough with the smooth. When you are doing well, you pick up all the papers and read them and see how wonderful you are, you're quite happy to accept all that, so you have to take the other half of it when it comes along," he reflected. "I'm in a high profile sport and it's great that you've got a sport that provokes so much of comment. The downside is that you've got to do well, otherwise you take a lot of stick, but I'd rather be taking stick for not winning a grand prix and watching it and not driving."

However deep down the criticism can hurt and especially when you have put everything on the line to try

The Williams Renault car driven by Damon Hill is far superior to the Ferrari driven by Michael Schumacher. So, there is a good chance that Hill might become the World Champion

and beat somebody that many feel is simply unbeatable.

"There were times when I wondered what I could do without being criticised." Hill recalled. "When I do have a go and it doesn't work out people slag me off. When I've not attacked people they complain that I should be more aggressive. It seems that I can't please everyone all the time."

Aggression is not something that Hill finds easy to produce on tap. He's an intelligent family man, who can sometimes be too honest for his own good. But, behind the wheel of a Formula One car his aggression has sometimes led to his own downfall. It promises to be a fascinating Championship this year as Hill battles to divert all that pent-up aggression into the right channels. He has already shown in his previous 13 grand prix victories, that when he gets the balance and chemistry right he is a very hard man to beat.

MEET THE DRIVERS



The second of th





Scuderia Ferrari

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE

1995 Constructors' World Championship position: Third (73 points)

First Grand Prix: 1950 Monaco (World Championship)
First Grand Prix victory: 1951 Great Britain

(World Championship)
Most recent Grand Prix victory: 1995 Canada
Total Grands Prix entered: 554
Total points scored: 1921.5

Constructors' World Chemplonehips: 8 1961/64 1975/76/77/79 1982/83 Drivers' World Chemplonehips: 9 1952/53/56/58 1961/64 1975/77/79 Best recults: Victories 105 Second 144 Third 127 Fourth 108 Fifth 71 -Sixth 63 Pole positions: 114 Festest race laps: 122



DRIVERS

Mild Seven Benetton Renault

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE

1995 Constructors' World Chempionship

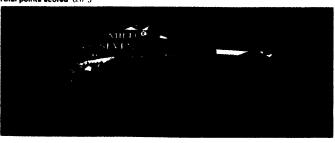
First Grand Prix 1951 Italy (Toleman) 1986 Brazil (Henetton)

First Grand Prix victory, 1986 Mexico Most recent Grand Prix victory: 1995 Japan Total Grands Prix entered: 218 (161 excluding Total points scored: 637.5

Constructors' World Chempionships: 1

Drivers' World Championships: 2 - 1994/95 Best results, Victories 26 Second 18 Third 33 Fourth 26 Fifth 29

South 17
Pole Positions: 13 Fastest race laps. 30



DRIVERS

JEAN ALESI

GERHARD BERGER



A look at the top drivers in Formula One racing

Rothmans Williams Renault FW18

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE

First Grand Prix: 1978 Argentina First Grand Prix violery: 1979 Great Britain Most recent victory: 1995 Australia

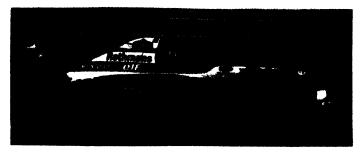
Total races: 283
Total points: 1612.5

Constructors World Championships: 7 1980/1981/1986/1987/1992/1993/1994 **Drivers World Championships:** 5 1980/1982/1987/1992/1993

Best results: Victories 83 Second 77 - Third 44 - Fourth 36 - Fifth 35 -

Sixth 25

Pole positions: 85 Fastest race laps: 89



DRIVERS DAMCHHIL

Marlboro McLaren Mercedes

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE

1995 Constructors' World Championship position: Fourth (30 points)

First Grand Prix: 1966 Monaco First Grand Prix victory: 1968 Belgium Most recent Grand Prix victory: 1993 Australia Total Grands Prix entered: 427 Total points scored: 1935 5 Constructors' World Championships; 7
1974 1984/85/88/89 1990/91
Drivers' World Championships; 9
1974/76 1984/85/86/88/89 1990/91
Best results: Victories 104
Second 76 - Third 75 - Fourth 85 Fifth 47
Sixth 47

Pole positions: 79 Fastest race laps: 69



DRIVERS

7 MIKA HAKKINEN

B DAVID COULTHAND







GAINING IN



The Asia-Pacific Rally championships is rapidly becoming one of the more popular events on this side of the globe

R

BY SUKANTI GHOSH

UST eight years since the first Rally Championship took place in the Asia-Pacific, the event has mushroomed in stature to become the second most important rallying series in the world.

Australian veteran Ross Dunkerton won the 1987 crown, driving a car which, at the time, would have struggled to finish in the top 10 of any of the European rallies.

Today, all that has changed. The cars and the drivers participating in the Asia-Pacific Championships are the best that you will find anywhere in the world—with each of the major rallying teams looking to stamp their mark on the now highly prestigious event.

In the wake of Dunkerton's win in '87, the major manufacturers were quick to spot the potential of the Asia-Pacific series. Mitsubishi entered the Championship in 1988 and immediately took the title—thanks to the driving skills of Kenjiro Shinozuka of Japan.

The following year, Mazda turned the tables when expatriate New Zealander Rod Millen, driving a Mazda 323 prepared in California, came home ahead of the Mitsubishi drivers, Dunkerton and Shinozuka.

Even in 1990, the competition was still weak enough for Carlos Sainz to win almost by accident on his way to the World Championship. He contested just two of the five rallies, both of which he needed to enter because they were part of the World Rally Championship programme. And, the crown was his.

However, the Championship today is no longer regarded as the poor relation to the World Rally Championship—in fact, the major teams are gearing themselves towards the most fiercely contested Asia-Pacific Championship yet, entering heavyweight line-ups of experienced drivers in an effort to secure the crown.

It's perhaps not surprising that all the top manufacturers have seriously focused their attention on gaining the Asia-Pacific title. Especially, since it is rapidly becoming one of the most watched motorsport Championships ever. In 1995, a total of 22 million spectators lined the routes of the six events—drawing a staggering 690





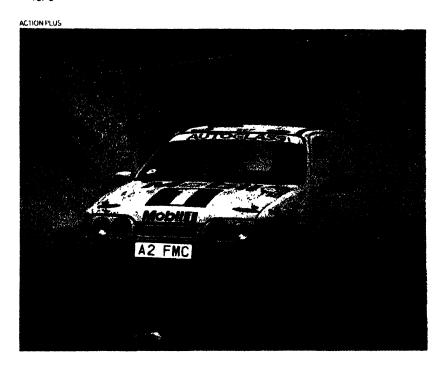
NYLOG

ALWAYS THE LAT

POPULARITY!

THE TOP CONTENDERS

	Colin McRae	Kenneth Eriksson	Piero Liatti	Richard Burns	Tommi Makıner
	Derek Ringer	S. Parmander	M. Ferfoglia	R. Reid	S. Harjanne
TEAM	555 Subaru	555 Subaru	555 Subaru	Mitsubishi	Mitsubishi
	WRT	WRT	WRT	Ralliart	Ralliart
CAR	Subaru	Subaru	Subaru	Mitsubishi	Mitsubishi
	Impreza	Impreza	Impreza	Lancer	Lancer
	555	555	555	Evolution	Evolution
RALLY DEBUT	1986	1977	1985	1988	1985
APC - PREVIOUS FINISHES IN TOP 5	3rd-1995	1st-1995		5th-1995	2nd-1995



million international television audience with coverage that totalled 222 television viewing hours.

Over the past three years, the Asia-Pacific Championship has become a fierce battle between Subaru and Mitsubishi. In 1993 and 1994, the 555 Subaru Championship, saw some blistering performances and wins from Kenneth Eriksson. And the showdown looks set to continue this year-only with an additional bizarre twist---which sees top Asia-Pacific drivers, Kenneth Eriksson and Richard Burns, literally swapping teams and cars. With the tallies of Thailand and Indonesia just over, all eyes are now turned towards Malaysia-the scene of the third leg of the 1996 Asia-Pacific Championship. Indeed, the stakes for glory have never been higher



IN TOP GEAR!

As more and more money is being poured into motor sport these days, the Indian motor rallying circuit is set to take off in a big way

BY GEORGE FRANCIS, MADRAS

WOULD you believe if you are told that the top rallyist in India earns about Rs.1.5 crores in a year? Well, then, expenses are high. For example: the preparation of a car for a national rally costs about Rs.50,000. And does it make sense to you that an ace rally driver can collect at least Rs.3 lakh as prize money? This is the kind of money that goes into rallying in our so-called 'third world' country. But these are only individual cases.

Taking into consideration what an individual earns, one can easily assume that crores of rupees are being poured into motor sports by top rallying teams in India. Motor sports, despite its high costs, is today available to the common person in India, thanks to big sponsors.

It was 15 years ago that MRF Ltd., the then Madras Rubber Factory, got into motor racing. Starting on a very modest scale, the red, black, and white team brought into motor racing the 'team' concept. Though many other sponsors tried their hands at building teams, it was only the 'Team McDowell' which made a worthwhile impact on the 'redshirts'. Then, along came Coimbatore's S. Karivardhan with his 'black beauty' formula car which stormed the scene. The



Team MRF: raring to go!

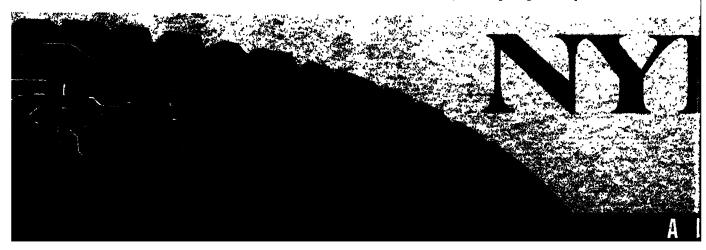
Managing Director of Lakshmi Mills, he brought in 'Team Lakshmi Mills' about 13 years back.

In 1992, another tyre company entered the fray. 'Team JK Tyres' the Delhi- based truck and car tyre manufacturers, pooled in a big sum and entered into a deal with Karivardhan and ran the 'Team JK Racing'. But MRF was the natural leader in rallies which gained prominence in India in the eighties.

What started out as basically outings and picnic rallies, became more serious and in 1990, the

National Championship for rallies was announced. Though the champion was not paid any prize money at the end of the year, it became highly prestigious to win the title. Starting with two modified classes and one stock class for cars, and a modified and unmodified class for motorcycles, today there are Championship Trophies for the Champion driver/navigator in a modified and an unmodified class in cars and motorcycles.

The interest in motorsport gradually increased. For example, the 'J K Rally team' was born when Jasdeep Singh, a rallyist from Delhi



who took part in a car rally in the south, found it exciting and informed his friends, Hari Singh and Gurinder Singh Mann. Putting together a deal with Karivardhan to tune their cars, 'Team JK' made steady progress. Hari Singh, their anchor man, nicknamed 'mountain rat', for his daredevilry, began to make an impact and 'Team JK' started to gain placings. In the years 1992 and 1993, 'Team JK' grew in maturity and driving skill.

But in 1994 and 1995 with the last leg of the car championship slated to be held at Hyderabad in December, the infants on the rallying front, 'Team JK' swept the boards, winning both the driver's and the navigator's championships.

In 1992, another team, 'Team Paarel', based at Irinjalakuda in Kerala, made its presence felt on the rally circuit. With four cars and bikes, sponsored by the Paarel Family, who are plywood manufacturers, the team chose green as its colour and won the tough Karnataka Rally in 1993. They are on a lay-off now since they are investing a huge amount in five new factories.

The rallying field in the country has been progressing at a rapid pace over the last couple of years. It was only during the Gulf war that rally and races were stopped to satisfy public opinion who complained about the wastage of fuel. The popular rally run by the Kuttukaran Group, was the first event to be stopped by the vigilant "community conscious" Kerala public.

It was in 1995, that 'Team JCT', a single car team driven by Joint Managing Director, Samir Thapar of JCT Ltd., entered rallying. Sammy, as he is known to fellow rallyists, was

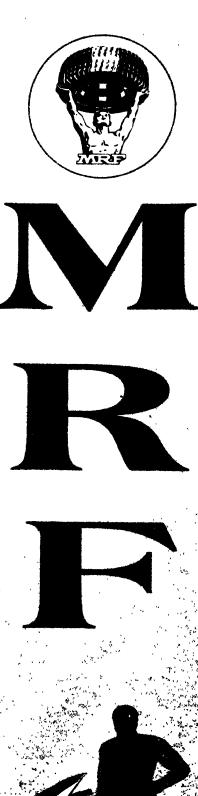
earlier in the MRF and JK teams, at different times. Rallies were shortened to 750 kms as long as they were part of the National Championship and this has made competition very tight. 'Team MRF', 'Team JK', 'Team JCT' and 'Team Parrel' are the only four teams in India today. But the advent of economic liberalisation have brought in many foreign automobile manufacturers to India. Indian car manufacturers have hardly got into sponsorship, in the way that you would expect them to, considering the publicity that they could get out of it. Today, the news sponsors to watch out for are the foreign automobile makers

The present 'Castrol Rally Driver' Rider/navigator Championships are run on the international special stage format, where the speeds achieved are very high.

The 1995 National Championships have brought in the 'Maruti Esteems' in a very big way into rallying cars. Among the motorcycles the 'Suzuki Shogun' has taken a front seat. With more and more cars manufacturered under foreign collaboration like the 'Numero Uno' and 'Cielo' hitting Indian roads, the 'Gypsy' days are slowly fading away.

The first leg for the cars and motorcycles was held in Nasik by the Nasik Automotive Sports Association in the first week of January, and 'Team MRF' won the modified and unmodified car categories and modified bike category.

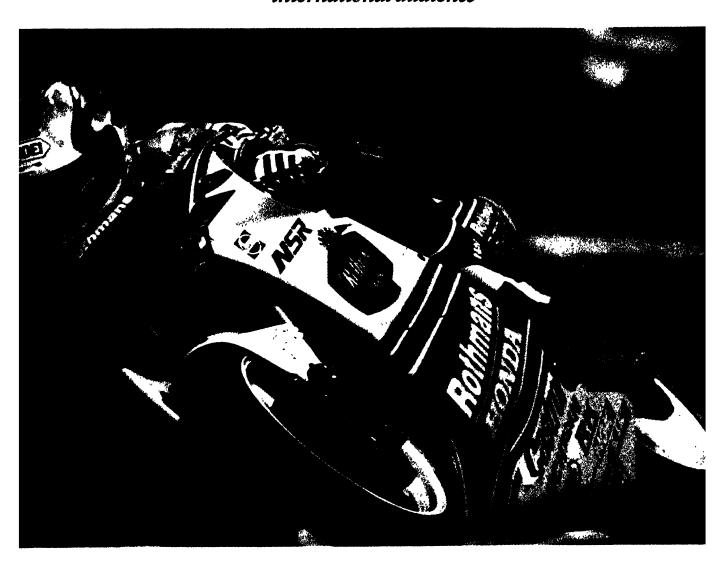
With 8 rallies slated for the rest of the year, starting at Coimbatore in June this year, this could well form the 'icing on the cake' the Indian motorsport.





HOT WHEELS!

Motorcycle Grand Prix has an addicted international audience



championships is now one of the most popular sporting events in the international sports calendar. There is something enthralling, thrilling and nerve-wracking, to see men speed down at excessive speeds on two wheels, hugging the corners, with the bikes almost parallel to the ground. You expect that at any moment, the rider will lose his balance and the bike

will careen out of control. But that is the beauty of watching this sport. It flirts outrageously with danger.

It is rare for a rider to lose balance because they are supremely skilful and talented. They have been riding bikes from a very young age and for them racing a high speed bike is like taking a Sunday morning walk in the park. Nothing to lose their sleep over at all.

The motorcycle Grand Prix is held

under the auspices of the Federation Internationale Motorcycliste (FIM), which is headquartered in Switzerland and is considered to be one of the best organised championships in motor sport. It is a sport that earns millions of dollars through advertisement and TV revenues and stars like Australian world champion Michael Doohan an former American world champion Kevin Schwantz are millionaires

mond Shows Minister this the Ministricular Restordants to power their bikes to victory.

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GRAND PRIX ITINERARY

Mer 31 Apr 7 Apr 21 May 12 May 25 May 27-June 7 June 29 Jul 7 Jul 21 Aug 4 Aug 18

Malaysian Grand Prix, Shah Alam Indonesian Grand Prix, Sentul Japanese Grand Prix, Suzuka Spanish Grand Prix, Jerez Italian Grand Prix, Mugello TT Races, Isle of Man Prench Grand Prix, Venue tha Dutch Grand Prix, Assen German Grand Prix, Nurburging British Grand Prix, Donnington Park Austrian Grand Prix, Osterreichring Czech Republic Grand Prix, Brno Grand Prix of Nations, Imola European Grand Prix, Catalunya Brazilian Grand Prix, Jacarepagua Argentinian Grand Prix, Buenos Aires Australian Grand Prix, Eastern Creek

several times over. Although they have suffered quite a few injuries during the course of a racing career spanning a decade.

The problem with motorcycle racing is that when accidents happen, they are of a very serious nature. People have their arms and legs

The skills of world champion Mike Doohan have helped increased TV audience around the world

broken and on rare occasions, even death occurs. But like Formula One racing, this constant danger of death is perhaps the most addictive quality for the TV viewer, who, safe in his armchair, gets a vicarious thrill at seeing riders zoom at such high speeds.

The bikes are divided according to their engine capacity. So we have the 125cc, 250cc, the sidecars, and the most attractive of them all, the 500cc category. There is also the superbikes, which is the highest and heaviest category. The championships are held over six months and the Grand Prix races are held in Europe, South America and Japan. Points are earned just like in Formula One and the winner gets the tag of World Champion.

SAFETY FIRST

Here are some tips for driving safely through our Indian cities

Follow traffic signals and sign boards on the roads

Safety plays a
very significant part
in our life.
Particularly when we
are on the road.

Do not stop the vehicle on the middle of the road for any reason. Take the vehicle to extreme left side of the road.

Check the condition of the vehicle before you start

Do not drive over speed which may prove fatal Do not drive under the influence of liquor or druge

Stop vehicle on seeing the Red signal and proceed ahead after the Green signal is on Do not travel too close behind the vehicle alteral of you



Show hand signals Do not use multi-toned horns NO ENTRY and
ONE WAY
restrictions
should be
followed strictly

Do not expect others to read your mind.

Before making a move, slowing down, coming to a halt, changing the direction or overtaking give clear and bold signals well in advance

Signals constitute the language of the road 'Speak' it clearly for your own and other people's safety



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. freewheeling

departure from the Indian team proves one point. If you are sincere, principled dignified dedicated and keep your own counsel you are treated with contempt, insulted, humiliated sidelined and finally forced to quit. That is the only conclusion that one can come to, following his exit from the Indian team in mid-tour. I mean, this man has a Test average of 40 plus an equally impressive average in the one-dayers but that did not prevent him from being sidelined often, as

professionalism Maybe they are right. As Balzac wrote "The men in spower are in such dire need to believe, in ready-made merit, in talent that blows its own trumpet"

But the good news is that these type of hustlers have short-lived careers As the late Arthur Ashe explained in his memoir, 'Days of Grace, 'Things backfire because principles of universality and morality have been set aside in favour of the goal of quick power usually of a limited kind'

Coming back to Sidhu everybody

he can no longer tolerate it and protests forcefully

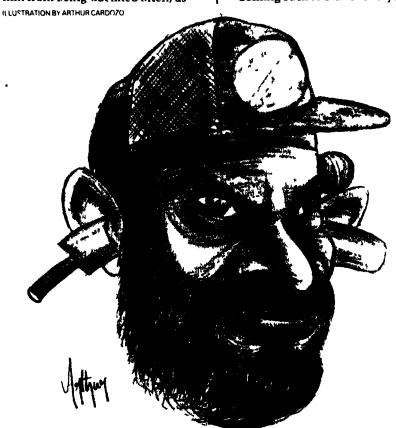
"Every dissenter worth his salt," said the late American politician, Norman Thomas, "or better still, every dissenter who wants to be remembered among the salt of this earth—is primarily concerned about some positive value that he wants not only to assert to himself but to recommend to others." So, by quitting Sidhu is implying, not only to himself but to all of us that all is not well with the Indian team.

The questions surrounding Sidhu's departure are this what is happening in the Indian team? What sort of a leader is Azharuddin? Why has team spirit plummeted so obviously? Can everything be blamed on the cold weather and the dull grey climate in England? (That way Robert Peary could have complained that he could not be the first man to reach the North Pole because of the cold and the treacherousice) Surely there is something known as determination and fighting spirit?

The Sidhu episode is going to open a Pandora's Box once the tour is over There seems to be something seriously wrong with Indian cricket and the BCCI's obsession with financial deals and marketing rather than thinking of Indian cricket and players in general has not helped matters at all. The Augean stables will have to be cleaned of all the politics, the murky dealings the excessive money the fast women and the endless hustling for team places. It is this last point that is the most shameful.

Isn't it time that we started placing emphasis on talent and performance and not allow people to get into the team because of backing and quota systems? How long are we going to keep thinking in this self-defeating manner? The whole world is moving ahead on merit and talent and performance while we are stuck in some pre-historic mode of thinking, where who your father is, and from which caste and state you come from, is far more important than the talent that you possess

Shevlin Sebastian



younger players with much less talent dedication and experience found a place in the Indian eleven

Navjot Singh Sidhu's exit is a microcosm of what happens in Indian society at large. It is not the principled dedicated sincere people who thrive in India instead it is the hustlers, the con men, the sycophants and the bullies who come to prominence in our society. If you ask them whether this is the right way to go about having a career, then they without batting an eyelid, will define what they do as

knows that he possesses an innate sense of dignity. Your face is your most potent advertisement about the type of person you are. Nothing can be hidden in the face. As Nobel Laureate Saul Bellow stated. A human face gives information.

A single glance at Sidhu s face shows that he is a man of dignity and principles and hence finds it imperative that he is treated with respect. When he is not respected then a person like Sidhu feels humiliated, there comes a time when



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DENNIS BERGKAMP

EURO '96

FANCY FOOTWORK

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A PRISONER OF MEMORY

Holland's talented striker, Patrick Kluivert, is the best in the business. If only he can exorcise his inner torments.

24

STEALTH BOMBER!

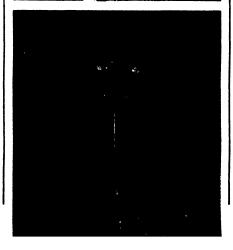
Jurgen Klinsmann is Germany's most lethal striker. A profile of the colourful player

OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN SPECIAL

Continuing our series of articles focussing on the Olympic Games, past and present.







8

Section 1988 Section 1989

TECHNOLOGY IN FOOTBALL NEEDED

14

PAOLO MALDINI:ITALY'S BEST DEFENDER

18

BIG BOSSES: SOCCER
MANAGERS

30

KEEPING PACE: VENKATESH PRASAD

32

HUM KISISE KUM NAHIN: NASSER HUSSAIN

7 2

(DOMINIC) CORK AND A LITTLE BULL

38

CHRIS LEWIS IS WAITING TO EXHALE

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY COLORSPORT

A PRISON OF MEMO

Colland's talented striker,
PATRICK KLUIVERT, is the best in the business.
If only he can exorcise his inner torments

AST, powerful, elegant and skilful, 19-year-old Dutch striker Patrick Stephan Kluivert, is hailed as the 'black' Marco Van Basten. It is a sobriquet that he relishes. Yet at Euro'96, this latest sensation from Ajax Amsterdam's legendary youth system is often seen moping and brooding, with a sombre, haunted look on his face.

Though young, famous, rich and handsome, Europe's most sought after striker at present resembles Macbeth with a tormented mind and furrowed features, instead of a bubbling, vivacious teenager.

Kluivert is not temperamentally an introvert, so such a character trait seems strange. It is obviously not financial worry. The teenager who will turn 20 on July 1, the day after the European Cup final, earns \$3,000 a week. He also received a \$250,000 bonus for getting his club Ajax to successive European Champions' trophy finals. Kluivert's bank balance is also swollen by commercial deals with Nike and Hautland. Like his idol Ruud Gullit, he is a music freak and has cut a pop record, which has sold well.

So what has gone wrong for the man who has the world at his feet (no pun intended)? Two accidents in the last ten months have upset Kluivert's mental equilibrium. His distress and

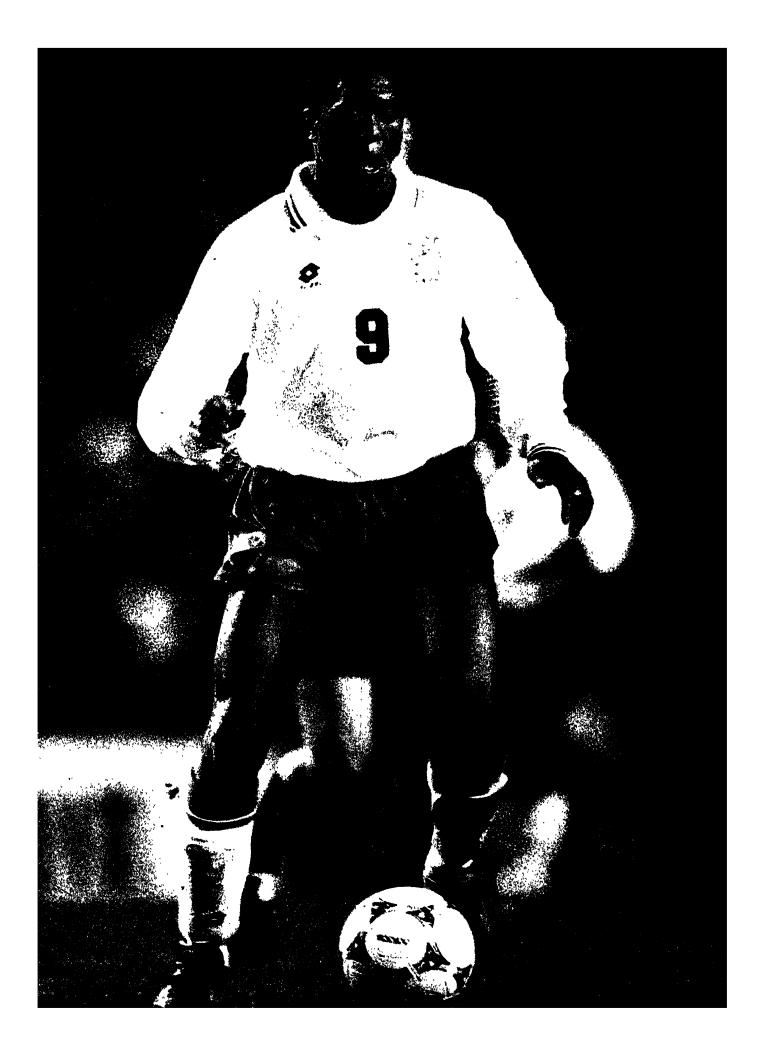
melancholy stems from his role in a fatal car crash, last year.

On 9th September 1995, Kluivert drove a friend's car, a red BMW Cabriolet, at a breakneck 89 kmph over a hump-back bridge at Amsterdam. On the other side, effecting a U-turn, was a car containing the leading Dutch theatre director, Martin Putman and his wife. Kluivert's car slammed into the Ford Orion, which Putman was driving, killing the latter instantly and injuring his wife. Coincidentally the 56-year-old Putman, father of two and director of the Stadschouwburg, was a life-long Ajax fan.

The judge who tried the case, said Kluivert had not been drinking. So the case against him revolved on the question of breaking the speed limit and thereby causing death by dangerous driving. In May 1996, Kluivert received a three-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, 240 hours community service and was banned for driving for 18 months. Public opinion in Holland was split, with several commentators and members suggesting that he should have been locked up. There was a public debate in Holland about whether superstars and sportspersons are above the law. Kluivert was the

The 'black' Marco Van Basten, who plays for Ajax, suffers from a temperamental problem







An ecstatic Patrick Kluivert, who scored the decisive goal, holds aloft the European Cup last year, after Ajax defeated A.C.Milan 1-0. obvious target and has been hurt by the vehement attacks against him. So after he finishes his community service, Kluivert is seeking calmer waters and wants to leave Ajax and play for a club in either Italy or England. Either AC Milan or Manchester United are favoured to sign him.

It is not the merits of the sentence (lenient or otherwise) which is haunting Kluivert but the actual accident itself. He admits, "the accident will haunt me for the rest of my life. It was a terrible thing, which turned my life upside down. The whole thing has done a lot of damage to me. One minute I was the idol of the public, the hero of Dutch football and the next minute they slaughtered me."

The weeks after the accident were emotionally harrowing for Kluivert. He received death threats from racists, was taunted by rival fans and underwent intense media pressure. Kluivert slunk into a state of deep depression, from which he has not yet fully recovered. "All the time, images of the accident come back to me. I can never be fully happy again. The child in me has been killed."

The talented Dutch superstar accentuated his problems by some further thoughtless behaviour. Like England's Paul Gascoigne, it seems Kluivert is also self-destructive. He was caught speeding and driving through a red light at a busy Amsterdam crossroads while police were still investigating the previous accident. He was fined on the spot and the next day Ajax confiscated his car. Many Dutch people find him insensitive, as the apology letter he wrote to Putnam's family was considered very artificial and with no real depth of feeling.

During these months of torment, Kluivert's escape was the football field. He played superbly in the Dutch league and was Ajax's top scorer for the second year and in the European Champions' league dazzled against Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund. He secured Holland's place in Euro'96, by scoring twice, in the play off match against the Republic of Ireland.

But his problems did not stop. In April, he injured his knee in training. After a minor surgery he returned to play as an ineffective second half substitute in Ajax's European Cup final defeat by Juventus in May'96. His lack of fitness led to restricted mobility, which curbed his efficacy in the final. Impaired mobility was again evident when he played for Holland in the group phase matches of Euro'96.

Now Kluivert is worried about his knee injury and what impact it will have on his mobility and overall ability. Over six feet tall and weighing more than 75 kgs. Kluivert still has critics drooling about his intelligent running, close control and perceptive

striker, in keeping with Ajax's method of familiarising players with all positions. He inherits his love for football, from his father Kenneth who played 25 times for Surinam. The family migrated to Holland, where Kenneth still works as a postman and carries his son's fan mail.

Dutch coach, Guus Hiddink, feels Kluivert's greatest assets are his shielding, turning, ability to play with his back to the goal, running into space and the rare knack of making something happen like scoring unexpected goals. Kluivert shot into fame by scoring an opportunistic match winner against AC Milan in the 1995 European Champions' Cup



passing. He is not an old fashioned striker, just good in the air and with a powerful shot. As a striker, he is more in the mould of Van Basten and Gianluca Vialli. Kluivert is concerned that if his mobility gets restricted, the cutting edge of his game may decline. Cameos of individual brilliance were still revealed at Villa Park and Wembley, subtle back heels, quick turns, drifting into space, but the thrust of yore is yet to return. No wonder the carefree youngster has aged.

His skill was developed and honed at Ajax whom he joined as a eight year old Michael Jackson lookalike. He began as a centre half, later moved to midfield and eventually became a

A slightly angry Kluivert turns around his shirt, to display his name

final. He was just an 18-year-old then and was the youngest to score in a Champions' trophy final.

The talent, the hunger for success is still there. What is required from this brilliant young Ajax striker is a test of character. A friendly, extrovert he was fond of the bright lights and frequented the night clubs and bars which are in abundance at Amsterdam. Maybe the two catastrophic incidents early in his career, will make Kluivert realise the thin line between fame and notoriety and help him avoid the pitfalls.

Novy Kapadia, London



THE THIRD EYE

In spite of FIFA's best efforts to advocate fair play, the high amount of fouls committed by players in EURO '96 may serve as a pointer when it comes to introducing technology in football

BY NOVY KAPADIA, LONDON

FTER 24 matches of the league phase in Euro '96, the yellow card count was 122 and the red card count was five. And the average of goals per match was 2.1. So the referees clampdown at the tournament has not led to a deluge of goals. The question that now arises is who is to blame for the spate of yellow and red cards? The players, the overzealous supervisors or UEFA's rather strict directives.

UEFA's president, Lennart Johansson repudiates the suggestions that a special clampdown was ordered for this tournament. He says, "We are just following FIFA's directives. The refereeing guidelines for EURO '96 are not new. They are the same as for the USA World Cup in 1994, to ensure fairplay."

Now what were FIFA's guidelines? Prior to the 1994 World Cup, FIFA gave directives to referees which were intended to lead to fairer and more fluid games. Among the major recommendations were a clampdown on the tackles from behind and the harsher penalising of offences in the penalty area. The implementation of the directives were credited for achieving its objectives. In 52 World Cup games, there was an average of 2.71 goals per game against 4.37

yellow cards and 0.29 red cards per game. FIFA claimed they had almost eradicated violent play.

However, the evidence of Euro '96 does not vindicate FIFA's somewhat simplistic belief that the fear of yellow cards will lead to more goals and curb rough play. Instead referees at this championships are being pilloried as inconsistent villains. Criticism of the referees had been widespread and swift. The German coach, Bertie Vogts was unhappy with the six cautions for his players by the English referee David Elleray in their opening league match against the Czech Republic. Vogts said, "I would have expected an English referee who is not alien to the physical side of the game to be more lenient."

Bulgaria ace Hristo Stoichkov was equally bitter after his country's opening league match with Spain. Both countries dented their Fairplay records. Spanish striker Juan Pizzi and Bulgarian defender Peter Hubchev were shown the red card, for offences which did not deserve such a harsh penalty. Stoichkov accused the Italian referee Pierluigi Pairetto of being the biggest culprit on the pitch who made the most violations.

UEFA president, Lennart Johansson piqued at the criticism of his officials for being too strict, reacted swiftly by levying fines on teams with poor disciplinary records. Countries which have accumulated four or more cautions are being fined. After the league phase, the UEFA had collected about 40,000 pounds in fines. Johansson also said, "Players should not only content themselves with wearing the Fairplay logo but are expected to display fair play in their conduct. Referees have been asked to act against delaying tactics, such as carrying or kicking the ball away after the whistle is blown." Johansson even wrote to all the sixteen participating countries, reminding

them of the fairplay initiative after 30 vellow and two red cards were issued in the first four games. In the opening week of matches, the average of vellow cards was 7.5 per game. The red card shown to the Italian defender Apollini against the Czech Republic had spoilt one of the classic games of the tournament. Italy were at a disadvantage with ten men, lost 1-2 to the Czech Republic, which led to their early exit from EURO '96. Apolloni should not have been sent off. The first yellow card was for a raised-foot challenge that had no malice in it at all

Similarly, England's defender Gareth Southgate was needlessly booked two minutes before the end for a mistimed lunging tackle on Holland's Denis Bergkamp. The foul was near the halfway line and Bergkamp was nowhere near a scoring position. Also the match as a contest was over, with England leading 4-1 (the ultimate result). It is in such situations the players feel that referees should not just abide by the letter of the laws but the spirit of the laws and use their discretionary powers to greater effect. In Euro '96, this problem got accentuated as the players were seen gesturing to the referees to use their cards often for the most innocuous of challenges.

Former talented Scottish winger Pat Nevin wrote in his column that "it was disappointing to see the Dutch coach Guus Hiddink, having to replace Clarence Seedort before half-time in the Swiss match for fear that one more slightly misjudged tackle would see the talented defensive midfielder dismissed." Neville's apprehension was that the art of tackling would have got lost, "as players became understandably over wary of being booked".

Pat Nevin, Ruud Gullit, Jimmy Greaves and Ian St. John, all former reputed internationals, felt that brutal

tackling must be met with firmly. However, they were adamant that the excessive use of yellow cards tend to hamper the flow of game and reduce the significance of tackling, a major technical aspect of football. Some critics even felt that the gutsy element, 'the man's game' (though feminists would find that disparaging) aspect of football like tackling or the perfectly timed lunge would dwindle because of card happy referees. There is also a growing feeling that referees were not paying enough attention to shirt-tugging.

EURO '96 has however revealed that like in cricket, football is also using technology to aid supervision. Referees have been wearing armband radio receivers which emit a bleep when activated by a button on the shaft of a linesman's flag. The armband also vibrates to act as a signal when the referees is unable to hear the bleep over the noise of the crowd.

This optional extra for referees was first used in the Swiss league matches for the last two seasons. A UEFA spokesperson says that "this is an invaluable help during moves when the referee has his back to the linesmanwho wishes to attract his attention to something which has

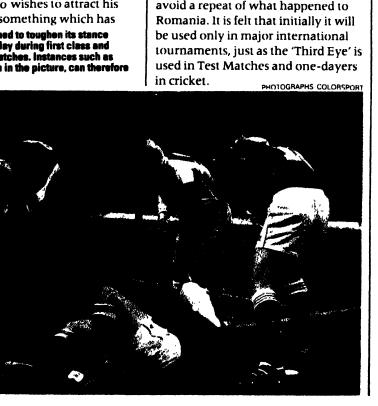
FIFA is determined to toughen its stance regarding fair play during first class and international matches. Instances such as hese, as shown in the picture, can therefore be avoided

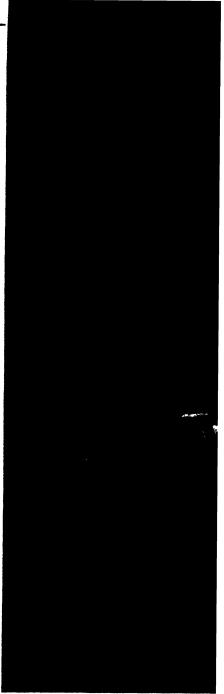
Soccer officials as well as former players have initiated a debate in favour of introducing a 'third eye' in order to avoid referee error

happened behind his back," So modern technology is now being used in football. The player's response to such technological help is positive and they feel that it should be extended to help referees decide controversial issues like whether the ball has crossed the goalline or not.

The most contentious issue in Euro '96 was that could the electronic guidance have been used to avoid the mishap that happened to Romania in their Group B league match with **Bulgaria?** Midfielder Dorinel Munteanu's blistering, rising right footer from outside the box hit the underside of the crossbar and seemed to have crossed the line. However, the referee and linesman said 'no goal.' Romania were robbed off a legitimate equaliser, lost the match 0-1 and became the first team to be eliminated from the tournament. They were justifiably aggreived. The UEFA authorities also admitted that it was a genuine goal. Public opinion in Europe suggests that some form of

'Third Eye' in football is inevitable to avoid a repeat of what happened to





Public opinion in England is that on such decisions where the human eye and judgement can err, the referee should stop play and consult an official who has recourse to electronic guidance. This feeling got amply reflected in ITV's popular weekly sports discussion, "Sporting Question", hosted by former internationals Ian St. John and Jimmy Greaves. During Euro '96, the Romanian 'disallowed goal fracas' was a major topic for discussion. Greaves maintained that "since the technology is now available which



was not there in 1966 (reference to England's third goal in the final which also bounced off the underside of the crosspiece) and is tried and tested in other sports like cricket and tennis, it should be incorporated in football also."

The former England striker said that by installing cameras in the goalpost, there would be no further controversy of whether or not the ball has crossed the line. However, Greaves said that the 'Third Eye' in football should only be used in context of determining whether or not a goal has been scored but not as a substitute for the referee's discretion on all infringements, such as fouls, handballs and offside. The studio audience overwhelmingly voted in support of Jimmy Greaves' proposal that technology be used to give football teams an accurate and fair deal. However as an astute member of the audience pointed out such technological aid should not be used in any way that may curve the flow of the game or mar the human element.

Greaves also added that the appeal of football was that it was a fast

flowing game and excessive reference to an outside official would mar the flow. Hence he stressed that FIFA must legislate that the camera or electronic aid be used only to give a verdict if either the ball has crossed the line or not but on no other decision, which should still be the referees jurisdiction and interpretation of the law. England's Tessa Sanderson, javelin throw gold medallist, who appeared on this show, felt the 'Third Eye' in football could be used as photo-finish in sprints only when required.

DEAR AZHAR....

Mohd. Azharuddin has been in the centre of controversy for quite some time. From the time his personal life went 'open', to the alleged roughing up of a photographer in Bangalore, to the horrendous decision to field first in the semi final of the World Cup, to being mauled by England in the current series plus the added woe of Navjot Singh Sidhu departing from the Indian team in a huff. Things have not been exactly easy for Azhar. And yet, he has his supporters who point out that that he's had the best record of any Indian captain. True, but the question is, is Azhar a lucky captain or a good captain? In this state of confusion, we decided to ask you, the reader, to write a letter to Azhar (about 600 words), telling him about your thoughts and feelings over all that has happened in the past few months.

Three prizes of Rs.1111, Rs.777 and Rs.222 will be awarded to the best three entries.

The last date of entries: July 24th.

Address all letters to:

Dear Azhar, C/O Sportsworld, Ananda Bazar Patrika Limited, 6 Prafulla Sarkar Street, Calcutta - 1



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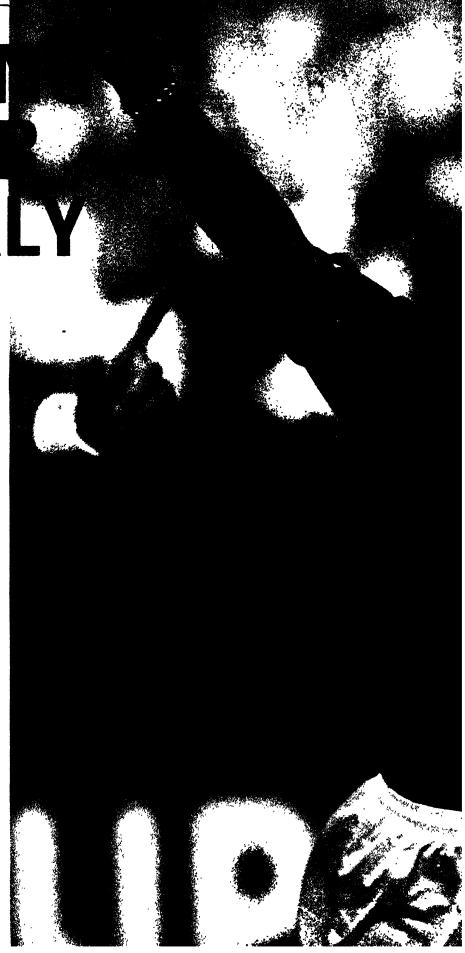
LEANII TOWER OF ITAL

Much of Italy's prospects in EURO '96 depended heavily on their captain PAOLO MALDINI, who is considered to be the best defender in the business

FROM NOVY KAPADIA, LONDON

.... URO'96 has confirmed that 27 year-old Paolo Maldini is the world's best defender A and the most outstanding Italian footballer of his generation. Confident, mesmeric and masterly, Paolo Maldini's duel with the speedy Russian winger Andrei Kanchelskis was the finest one-on-one duel in the league phase of the European Championships. It was an encounter which could have fitted into any period of football history. Kanchelskis' pace and directness regularly causes consternation to defenders in England's premier league, where he plays for Everton. However, in the match against Italy, the nippy Kanchelskis passed Maldini just three times. For most of the match Maldini either intercepted the through passes or shepherded Kanchelskis out of harm's way. It is this game reading and supreme defensive skills which make Maldini such a complete player.

In every imaginary Dream XI, or Furo'96 XI, picked by managers, TV





They say that in football technique is all important, and Maldini's technique and temperament are flawless

experts or fans, the name of Maldini had always appeared. It is not that there were a shortage of classy left-backs in the tournament. Germany's lanky and lithe Christian Ziege with the 'lean and hungry' look like Cassius and Russia's Ilya Tsymbalar are all competent performers. But Maldini is in a class of his own. He is one of the few players in the world, equally adept as left-back or centre half. He excels in defensive duties, sharp control and is an equally effective moving forward and with perfect ball distribution.

Maldini's languid pace belies his determination and ability. His superb technique and anticipation gives him those extra seconds which make him appear so imposing and confident. Prior to Euro'96, Maldini had appeared in 67 internationals and scored four goals. He is a skilful moving forward and regularly moves upfield for corners and free kicks where his heading ability makes him a threat. But surprisingly, he does not score as many goals as he should. The inability to score goals is probably the only chink in the armour. It may be held against him, if a 20th century All Time Great XI is chosen. Besides Maldini, the contestants for left-back could be Giacinto Fachetti of Inter Milan and Italy who popularised the concept of the overlapping wing-back in the 1960s, the brilliant Germans Paul Breitner and Andreas Brehme and the Brazilian Nilton Santos. In defensive qualities, Maldini can match any of the names mentioned above, but in goal-scoring maybe Fachetti, with the blistering shot could get the nod. However, none of the great left-backs of the past could match Maldini's ability to play as both left-back and central defender or even 'libero'.

In fact, Maldini considers his performance as central defender in the 1994 European Champions' Cup final for club AC Milan vs Barcelona of Spain as the finest of his international career. It was billed as the clash of the titans, Barcelona's rampaging attack of



Romario and Hristo Stoitchkov vs the compact Milan defence. Instead of being the most exciting final ever it was a damp squib. Milan outclassed Barcelona 4-0. Maldini and Costacurta curbed Romario and Stoitchkov's potency with some superb defensive play. Again in the 1994 World Cup final, Maldini started as a stopper but later shifted to left-back. In both positions, he was equally brilliant.

Alex Ferguson, the canny Manchester United manager, feels Maldini is a faultless defender. He says Maldini's sureness of touch and delivery and mastery of technique is awesome. Ferguson praises Maldini's intelligence and the way he gets wingers on the wrong side. His Italian and former club coach Arrigo Sacchi applauds Maldini's temperament. He

says, "Maldini is least likely to get a yellow card as even if he makes a positional misjudgement, his recovery is quick and his timing of tackles superb."

Like Holland's Jordi Cryuff and Youri Djorkaeff of France, Paolo Maldini's father was also an international. However, whilst Jordi, in particular, and Youri are still overshadowed by their father's brilliance, Paolo has in just ten years as a professional achieved greater laurels than his father. He is the son of 14-times capped Italian defender Cesare Maldini, captain of Milan's 1963 European Champions'Cup winning side and current coach of Italy's Olympic team and Under-21 years squad.

Paolo Maldini has been a one club man so far, a rarity in modern football,

Paolo Maldini is one of the most respected defenders in the world today and all the superstars know that getting a ball past him is a tough job

with lucrative transfer fees always pushing loyalty to the backseat. Maldini made his league debut as a child prodigy with AC Milan as a 16-year-old in a 1-1 draw with Udinesse in January 1985. In eleven years as a professional with AC Milan, he has won four Italian championships, three European Champions' Cups, two World Club championships and three Italian Super Cups, plus a World Cup runners-up medal in 1994. His fitness is excellent and his confidence increases each year. In Euro'96, the cognoscenti drooled over Maldini's performances, which could be a source of delight for years to come.

READERS' UIZ

QUESTIONS

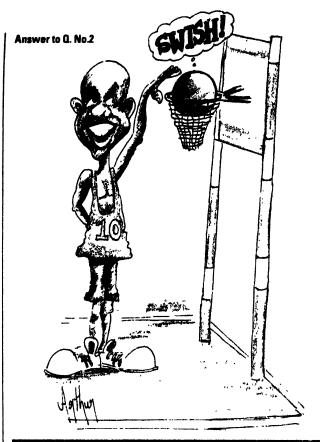
- Both Mats Wilander and Ken Rosewall had something in common, when they won the French Open singles title. What was it?
- In basketball, what is a swish shot?
- Steve Bucknor of Jamaica umpired a World Cup cricket final. What unique distinction does he hold?
- After whom is the 'Santosh Trophy' named?

CARTOONS ARTHUR CARDOZO

- In the 1983
 U.S.Open, a linesmen
 by the name of Richard
 Vertheim was hit on the
 stomach by a ball. He died
 later. Which player hit that
 unfortunate shot?
- Which player invented the term, 'Fielding Circle?'
- Who is called 'Jocky' in cricket?
- Which comic character is a good polo player?
- Who are called 'The Beastie Boys' in tennis?
- In which sport is the Grand Champion formally invested in a shrine and awarded a 11-pound belt of white rope?

Answer to Q. No.8





ANSWERS

- 1. Both of them won the junior title, the year before they won the men's singles title.
- 2. Scoring a basket without touching the board.
- 3. He is the only cricket umpire to have refereed a World Cup soccer match also.
- 4. M.N. Roy Chowdhury. (The Maharaja of Santosh).
- 5. Stefan Edberg.
- 6. Tony Greig.
- 7. The eleventh batsman.
- 8. Flash Gordon.
- They are the tabloid reporters who report on tennis.
- 10.Sumo wrestling.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPHED BY



TANUSANKAR CHAKRABORTY, C/O MR.BIMAL GHOSH, 13-7/35 CONGRESS ROAD, KALYANI, NADIA.

BIG BOSSES!

Coaches in the recently concluded Euro'96 have walked a razor's edge. Depending on their country's performance, they have either confounded the critics or are now facing the firing squad

TITH the conclusion of Euro '96, the managers and players of the 16 participating teams have returned home, after a most exciting drama-filled tournament. For those coaches whose teams did not do well, there is a lurking fear of losing their positions, of being given the sack by the national federations. Yes, there is no doubt that football is a cruel and demanding sport: up today, down tomorrow.

At the best of times it is a gamble. Bobby Robson, England's coach for the 1986 and 1990 World Cups and recently appointed manager of legendary Spanish club, Barcelona at \$150,000 per month, made a wise comment on the hazards of accepting the role of national coach. He said, "If you flop as a national coach, it could take ten years off your coaching career, as few clubs want to employ a failed national coach, due to excessive media pressure. However, it is a desire, difficult to resist." Robson recommends that only a mature person, with some years of experience, should take up the job, to withstand "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune."

A clear aspect that had emerged in Euro'96, is that many national coaches this time had opted for harmony and team spirit. But something was amiss. The absence of some great names like Roberto Baggio and Gianluca Vialli of Italy; Eric Cantona, Jean Pierre Papin and David Ginola of France; Lothar Matthaeus of Germany; Peter Beardsley of England; Oleg Salenko of Russia; Raul and Ivan de la Pena of Spain. And all this is because of the whims of their national coaches.

Unkind critics had suggested that some managers or coaches, call them what you will, seem to be intimidated by 'strong, larger than life personalities' like Cantona and Vialli and take the easy option of dropping them, using the euphemism of team spirit, to justify their acts. In a national poll, conducted in France, 80 per cent felt that Cantona should have been in the team. But the innovative manager Aime Jacquet stuck to his guns and dropped Cantona, Ginola and Papin. Either France have an embarrassment of riches or Jacquet had just been plain cussed. Jacquet felt that Papin was out of touch, Ginola was too moody and Cantona too disruptive, especially as the latter could not be guaranteed a place in the playing eleven. Jacquet was of the opinion that "one must mistrust too much stability...you must change, find something new, to spark off a reaction."

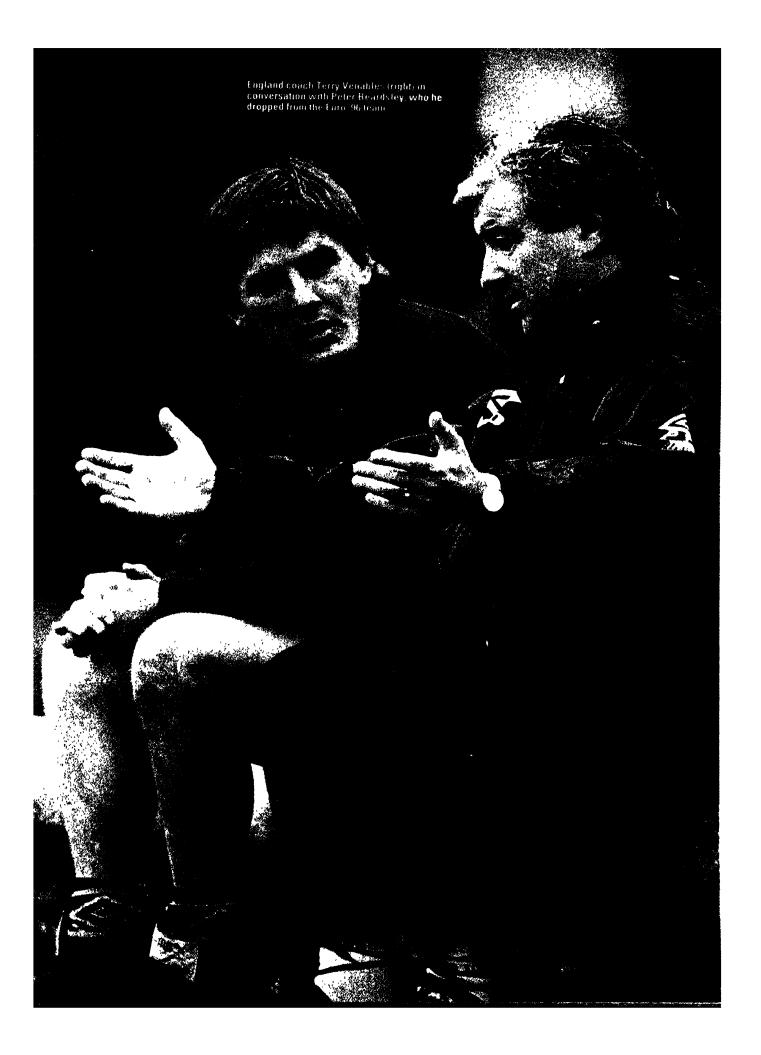
Many went to the extent of criticising the manager for dropping Cantona, the ex-French skipper and current Footballer of the Year in England. The exceptional Cantona, who plays for Manchester United, has a huge fan following in England and even if he had been present on the bench it would have at least generated crowd support for France. However, Jacquet defied public opinion and traditional wisdom. Cantona's reaction at his omission was cryptic, "We'll see who dies in the end (the player or the manager?)".

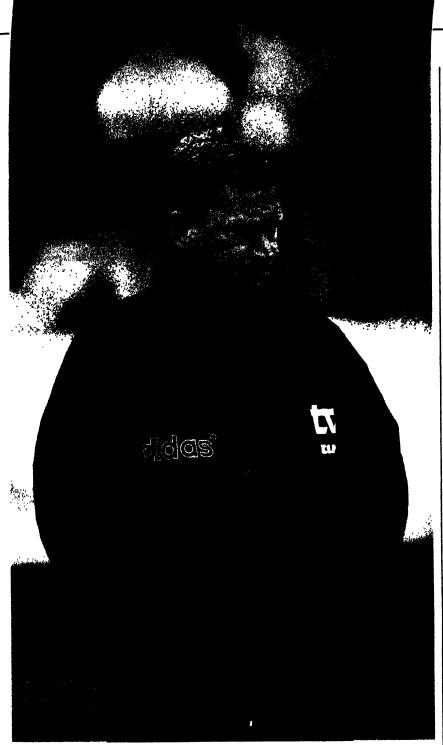
A similar personality clash arose in Germany. Former skipper Lothar Matthaeus, capped a record 122 times, still maintains that Bertie Vogts dropped him from Euro'96 for reasons other than football. He also accused skipper Jurgen Klinsmann for spreading calumnies about his fitness. The canny Vogts made no public statements but suggested that Matthaeus was a possible disruptive influence in the dressing room because of his overbearing attitude. Vogts opted for harmony and risked dropping a player in form.

Russian manager Oleg Romantsev was equally ruthless and arbitrary in his selections. Two years, at Palo Alto, striker Oleg Salenko set a world record, scoring five goals against Cameroon, in a league match which Russia won 6-1. With his blistering and clinical finish, he seemed set for a dazzling international future. However, Romantsev, known for his strong personal dislikes, did not even consider Salenko's claims. Similarly, he just ignored the talented Spartak Moscow defender Dmitri Popov who is now playing in Spain.

Italy's balding, bespectacled Arrigo Saachi is sometimes hailed but often pilloried for his 'moral crusade' about player behaviour. Obedience and respect for tactical discipline is what Saachi demands. Any player who does not fit into these categories is rejected like the great Gianluca Vialli of Juventus, who is now set to join Chelsea in the Premier League and goalkeeper G. Pagliuca. For Euro'96, Sacchi gambled, by dropping world famous Roberto Baggio. Admittedly, Baggio due to niggling injuries had an inconsistent 1995-96 season and could not command a place in the team. His role as the lurking pivotal attacker had been usurped by Gianfranco Zola of Parma and the current boy wonder of Italian soccer, Alessandro Del Piero of Juventus.

No coach at these championships is





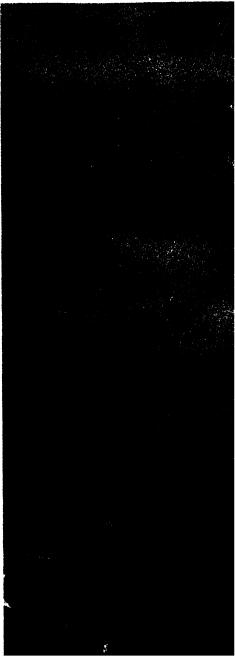
inconsistent choices. Whilst selecting a playmaker in the midfield, he opted for the experience of Paul Gascoigne and dropped the hugely talented Matthew Li Tissier who many British critics felt was not given a fair trial (just 17 minutes in an international). Considering that Gascoigne is susceptible to injury and collects yellow cards due to his fragile temperament, many felt that both Li Tissier and Gazza could have been in the squad. In contrast, whilst

England's coach Terry Venables also had made two strange and

under greater pressure than Sacchi, as in Italy, the expectations are huge. Many Italian critics felt that Baggio was not selected because of Sacchi's obsessive insistence on tactical considerations which stifled the natural instincts of the pony-tailed superstar. In contrast, Sacchi's repeated preference for a game trier but a player with little talent like striker Pierlugi Casiraghi of Lazio was equally baffling.

Javier Clemente of Spain ignored the claims of superstars like Raul Gonzales and Ivan de la Pena

It just goes to show that likes and dislikes of coaches, like Syed Nayeemuddin for Krishanu Dey and Amit Das, Amal Dutta for Pem Dorji and Abdul Majid or Rustom Akramov for Ajay Kumar Singh and Basudev Mondal is not confined to the sub-continent only but is a trend in world football.



F O C U S

choosing a pivotal attacker, Venables bade adieu to the experienced Peter Beardsley (59 caps) and instead chose 21-year-old Nick Barnby of Middlesborough.

The multi-lingual Portugese Arthur Jorge, who is the Swiss coach also, gambled by dropping established internationals striker Adrian Knup and wily defender Alain Geiger. Jorge felt they had lost the pace and desire for international football. He insisted, "It had nothing to do with personalities", but the Swiss media had insisted that it was again a case of

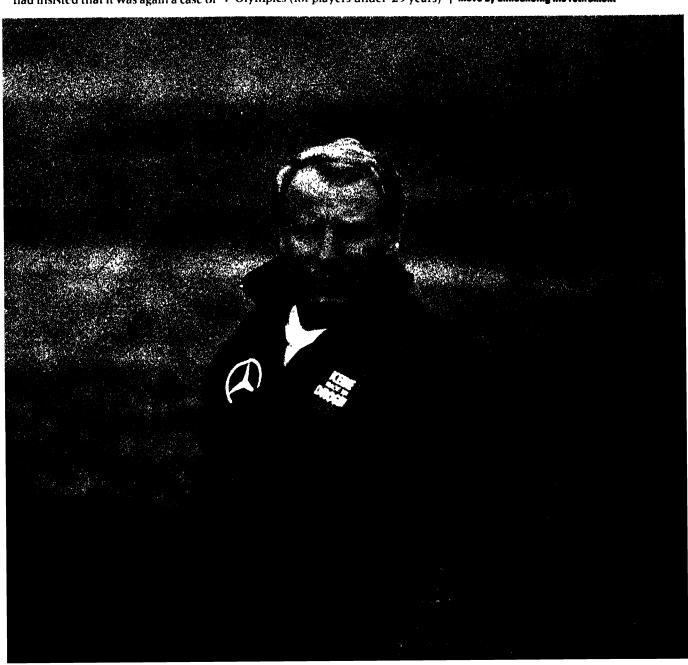
a harmonious squad rather than talented individuals.

Spanish coach Javier Clemente, nicknamed the 'Old Fox', turned a deaf ear to the claims of the rising superstars, Raul Gonzales and Ivan de la Pena. It was however not a personality or ego clash but according to Clemente, a case of football logic.

"They are very, very good but I'm not sure they are mature enough to play three games in 10 days at the very highest level." Clemente felt they will be more useful for Spain in the Atlanta Olympics (for players under-23 years) than in Euro '96. Spanish critics were unhappy with this pragmatic attitude. Spain in international competition have always remained enigmatic. So critics felt that Raul or De la Pena could have provided the inspiration and individual skills, essential for success. Time will tell if Clemente can confound his critics or face the firing squad.

Two coaches, Craig Brown of Scotland and Dussan Uhrin of the

Berti Vogts of Germany was going to drop Lother Mattheeus but the latter pre-empted the move by announcing his retirement









Czech Republic, are assured of contracts till the 1998 World Cup.
Croatia's Miroslav Blazevic who recently spent time in prison in connection with the Marseille bribery scandals, was also certain of retaining his position, as he was supported by

members of the Croatian F.A. and

President Tudjman.

Miroslav was bubbling with optimism and even went to the extent of saying, "We have the best players in the world and we'll cause the surprise of the century by reaching the final." Blazevic used this verbal tonic to boost his players' morale. Time will tell, if this hype was a catalyst to better performances or added pressure on his talented squad and whether Croatia has just great players or a great team.

Remember the example of Scotland in the 1978 World Cup. Hailed as world beaters, they finished third in their group and the Tartan Army came home drooping.

Turkey's messianic coach Fatih
Terim achieved a major victory by
reaching the final rounds of Euro '96.
It was Turkey's first major
tournament after 42 years, the last
being the 1954 World Cup. Terim
re-organised his line-up and included
several committed youngsters. His
major task was qualification for the
1998 World Cup and he had looked
upon Euro '96 as a way of gathering
international experience.

The major problems for Bulgaria's Dmitar Penev and Romania's Anghel

Romania's Anghel lordanescu was hoping that Gheorge Hagi will do the trick for him

Iordanescu was motivation of fading stars like Hristo Stoichkov and Gheorge Hagi. Iordanesco, who otherwise works in the Romanian Army, is nicknamed the 'General'. He nearly resigned due to the inaction by the Romanian F.A. to enquire and try to stop 'fixed matches' in their local leagues. However, he was persuaded to continue. But only time will tell as to how long Penev and Iordanescu will remain in their respective positions.

Antonio Oliveira, the Portugese coach, has been with the national team since 1994. He has attracted controversy with the activities of his family business which has built a virtual monopoly of contracting TV transmissions and advertising in nearly all the major stadiums in Portugal. His team was built around the brilliant teenaged side which twice won the World Youth Cup in 1989 and 1991.

The most relaxed coach was Denmark's Richard Moller Nielsen. In 1992, he was painting his kitchen when Denmark received a last minute entry to the European Championship final rounds in Sweden. They emerged fairy tale winners and Nielsen was chosen World Manager of the Year. Nielsen was quite philosophic and realised that lightening does not strike twice Novy Kapadia, London

FROM NOVY KAPADIA, LONDON

ODEST, educated and polite, the 31-year-old German skipper, Jurgen Klinsmann is not just a complete footballer but a complete man. Mark Antony's memorable quote on Brutus, in William Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar' and the elements so mix'd him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, this was a man,' can be modified and applied to Klinsmann.

The German skipper defies the stereotype image of a professional footballer, that of a 'lager lout' or merely interested in fast cars, blondes, booze, night clubs and cards. Klinsmann is erudite, sensitive, cosmopolitan and up to date with international issues. Klinsmann is an ecologist: he supports the green party, is against nuclear weapons, finances UNICEF charities and during the 1990 World Cup, when a devastating earthquake struck Iran, he was the only player to suggest that all the professionals in Italy should contribute to alleviate the miseries of the Iranians.

Even in his transfers, the slim, lanky, lithe, blonde striker is different. He enjoys challenges and it is not just money which prompts his choice of clubs. During his ten year professional career, he has played in four countries, for Stuttgart Kickers and VFB Stuttgart in Germany, Internazionale Milan in Italy, AS Monaco in France, Tottenham Hotspur (Spurs) in England and is currently playing for Bayern Munich which he joined in 1995.

Klinsmann's change of clubs have often been baffling. After two years in Milan and a UEFA Cup medal with them he moved to Monaco, not for a better contract but for the quality of life. He explained, "I like variety and mixing with different people and cultures." Such a desire also prompted his move to England in 1994 and made him an instant hit



Jurgen Klinsmann is one of the best strikers in the world. As captain of Germany, he has the onerous task of leading his country to victory in Euro '96

with the Spurs fans. In fact, Klinsmann is Britain's favourite German and was the first foreigner to be voted, 'England's Player of the Year' in the 1994-95 season.

A rare individual, Klinsmann likes to live life to the full. He is an inspirational skipper, a lethal striker, a shrewd diplomat and a charming public relations man, all rolled into one.

STEALTH **BOMBER!**

Behind every good goalkeeper is a ball from Jurgen Klinsmann

When Germany arrived in Britain for EURO 96, the host nation had several misgivings against Europe's superpower (both politically and in football). Fuelled by xenophobia, anti-German sentiments had been whipped up by the farce of the missing 1966 football and the anti-European coverage of the British beef ban.

The favourites at 9-2 for EURO 96, Germany required no public relations to smoothen ruffled feathers. Instead their charming skipper Jurgen Klinsmann assuaged hurt feelings with rare charm and subtle wit.

The way Klinsmann charmed





Klinsmann in action against Holland this year

Manchester, the venue of Germany's group C league phases, a trained diplomat could not have done better. He said, "we feel privileged to play in such a magnificent stadium (Old Trafford, the ground of League and F.A. Cup champions Manchester United)." The newly elected mayor, Councillor Derek Shaw, received a German shirt with his name printed on the back. Bert Trautmann, a

German prisoner of war, who stayed on in Britain to play as a professional for Manchester City in the 1950s, was to be guest of honour, throughout the European Championships.

Trautmann, a courageous goalkeeper is a legend amongst Manchester City fans and this gesture by the German national team won instant approval.

About the contentious issue of British beef, Klinsmann used rare wit to soothe hurt feelings. He scotched the rumours that the Germans will be flying in crate loads of homegrown steaks because of the 'mad cow and BSE scare.' He said, "Yes I'll eat British beef. I had British beef last season at Tottenham when I played probably some of the best football in my career and was voted Player of the Year. There's still nothing wrong with me. I have no problems." The scare about British beef is a ticklish issue, as it could be a health hazard. Spain for instance is bringing their beef with them for the tournament.

When Klinsmann left Spurs last year, after just a season with the North London club, there were several strange rumours. Again Klinsmann applied the healing touch with his words of wisdom. "I do miss playing in the English Premier League. I was lucky to have players like Teddy Sheringham, Nicky Barmby and Darren Anderton (all current English internationals) working on my behalf It was a pleasure to play in that team.....But at Munich I didn't enjoy the team spirit I'd had at Tottenham. I missed that." Explaining his move to Bayern Munich, he said he wanted to find out if he could continue living in Germany after his career ended.

Klinsmann grew up near Stuttgart, where his parents run a bakery. He learned that trade before becoming a football professional. His agility and speed on the field was acquired by training as a gymnast in his formative years. Till his teenage years, he was also a good volleyball player, which explains his devastating spot jump.

Klinsmann started his career with Stuttgart Kickers and later VFB Stuttgart in the Bundesliga. He created an immediate impression, with his work rate, goal scoring knack, mobility, tactical acumen and never-say-die spirit. He was capped in December '87 in a friendly 1-1 match against Brazil. In 1988, he was the Bundesliga's top scorer with 19 goals and was voted German PlayerOf The Year. This prompted a move to Italy's Internazionale, where he pocketed a staggering 1.3 million pounds sterling.

He excelled when West Germany won the 1990 World Cup. His finest hour was in the pre-quarter final tie



Klinsmann leaps over Marc Emmers of Belgium during their World Cup engagement in '94. Germany won the match 3-2

versus Holland. After co-striker Rúdi Voeller was sent off for an incident with Frank Rijkaard, it was Klinsmann's blistering pace and mobility which enabled Germany to prevail 2-1 in a tense encounter. It was the finest individual display by any forward in Italia, '90.

After the 1990 World Cup. Klinsmann became an acknowledged world star. He was again voted German Player Of The Year in 1994 and England's Player Of The Year in 1995. In 1996, he made history by setting a one season European club scoring record as Bayern Munich triumphed in the UEFA Cup. Klinsmann scored 15 goals, beating the previous best of 14 goals, held jointly by Jose Altalini of A.C.Milan in the 1962-63 Champions Cup, Lothar Emmerich for Borussia Dortmund in the 1965-66 European Cup-winners Cup and John Wark for Ipswich Town in the 1980-81 UEFA Cup.

Klinsmann the scorer of nine goals in ten matches during qualification matches for EURO '96 is the bookmakers' choice at 9-2, to top the goal charts in EURO '96. After the disaster of the 1994 World Cup, manager Berti Vogts has inducted ten new players in the squad. The Germans are also playing with new 'pressing tactics', basically pushing up the defence, to provide greater support to the strikers and put the other teams under pressure.

Klinsmann is quietly optimistic about Germany's chances of lifting the coveted Henri Delauney trophy. He astutely remarks, "We have a very strong side because we not only have individual players but we have a good team spirit again."

Though in the twilight of his career, Klinsmann's pace, control and finishing stamp him as one of the outstanding strikers in the world. He will require this ability to ensure that Duetschland Uber Alles is the national anthem played at Wembley on June 30th (the day of the final) and thus finish his career in a blaze of glory.

EURO DIARY

Interesting tid-bits from the Euro '96 tournament held in England

NTERNATIONAL cricketers clamour to stay in five-star hotels. However in Euro '96, the teams had opted to stay 'Far From The Madding Crowds'. Many teams preferred to accommodate themselves in converted mansions or Manor House castles with manicured gardens in the picturesque English countryside. The Romanian squad stayed at Redworth hall in County Durham, a converted centurian mansion. The Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu said that the rural retreat was chosen so that the players were protected from the glare of publicity.

As recreation, the Romanians had played bowls and croquet on the well manicured gardens. They, however, ate separately and to keep the taste buds satisfied, they had brought their own chef. The team had dined mostly on fish, broccoli, chips, bread, beetroot and the ultimate delicacy was feta cheese (like our own paneer).

Gheorghe Hagi, the gifted but temperamental play-maker, known as the Maradona of the Carpathians, likes to relax whilst watching TV in the bar. Some of the younger

According to an opinion poll, soccer is the most popular sport in Europe. Picture shows Denmark fans having a ball

Romanian players had played a lot of croquet, a typical pasttime of the English aristocracy in the years gone by.

THE RURAL INVASION

RANCE, for their group matches at Newcastle, stayed-at George Hotel in the remote but quaint English village of Chollerford. They had booked all the 48 rooms in the hotel. At Chollerford, mostly retired people reside. The biggest excitement for them during the year is often the village fete and Christmas. So, for retired miner, Sid Thompson and retired quarryman Alan Ritson, the Gallic invasion of their local village was quite exciting. However, their only grouse was that they

could not use the sauna and swimming pool at the George Hotel, which was kept out of bounds while the French team stayed

The French players did not travel far for practise. They had trained at the nearby Haydon Bridge school pitch, much to the thrill of the local schoolchildren. The most sought after player for autographs was the brilliant attacking midfielder Zinedine Zidane, recently transferred from Bordeaux to Inter Milan for \$4 million.

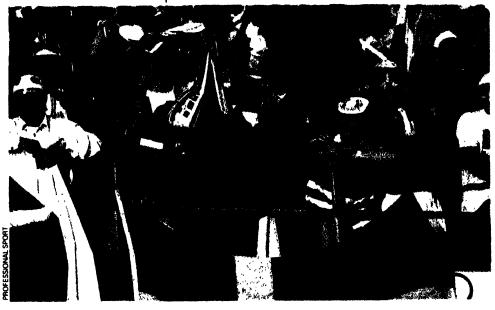
ENGLAND OVERRUN BY FANS

THE 15 visiting teams to the European Championships had

brought with them 330 players and a whopping six lakh fans to English shores. The battle for the best locations and hotels for the teams was like a preliminary contest of its own. As always, the Germans had displayed characteristic teutonic thoroughness. A month after the Euro '96 draw was released, they lost no time in choosing their location: the Mottran Hotel in the outskirts of Manchester.

THE DREAM XI

C ELECTION of the Dream XIs from amongst the Euro '96 players was a favourite pasttime amongst the TV pundits and experts. Gary Lineker, former Engkand striker and top-scorer of the 1986 World Cup, who



is now a BBC expert, chose the following Dream XI: Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel (Denmark); Defenders Matthias Sammer (Germany), Paolo Maldini (Italy), Miguel Nadal (Spain) and Yuri Nikiforov (Russia); Midfielders: Marcel Desailly (France), Edgar Davids (Holland), Alessandro del Piero (Italy), and Paulo Sousa (Portugal); Forwards Hristo Stoitchkov (Bulgaria), Jurgen Klinsmann (Germany), Ron Atkinson (manager of Coventry City).

But another BBC expert had a totally different Dream XI. The only common players in both elevens were Schmeichel who was rated by most coaches and the great Pele as the best custodian in the world. Maldini was considered the most complete defender in the world. Others in Ron Atkinson's squad were defenders Torriceli (Italy), Victor Onopko (Russia): midfielders Andrei Kanchelskis (Russia). Caminero (Spain), Paul Ince (England) and Brian Laudrup (Denmark), and deep lying forward Gianfranco Zola (Italy).

PEOPLE LOVE FOOTBALL!

research fact sheet of Euro'96 reveals that football is the favourite sport of 30 per cent in Britain, 21 per cent in Germany, 19 per cent in France and just 14 per cent in Russia (ice-skating was the most popular in Russia at 19%). Also, 61 per cent of the male population and



39 per cent of the female population of Europe intend to watch at least 11 of the 31 matches in Euro'96. Nearly half the population of Germany and about 45 per cent in Britain consider football, the world's no.1 sport but only about 20 per cent of Russians share the same opinion.

THE LARGEST TV AUDIENCE

URO'96 hada bigger
TV audience than the
last World Cup. Euro'96
reached a cumulative
worldwide TV audience of
6.9 billion. 194 countries
across the globe took TV
coverage of the

Paolo Maldini of Italy is now regarded by most experts and commentators as one of the best defenders in the world at present

tournament, which was more than the World Cup USA '94.

OFFICIAL SPONSORS ARE SMILING

THE eleven official sponsors of Euro'96 are rubbing their hands in glee. A benchmark survey conducted in Europe showed that one in five of those surveyed said that they would be more likely to try a product or service for the first time because of its sponsorship involvement with Euro'96. An average of 25 per cent

also said that their opinion of a company was raised by its sponsorship of the European championship final rounds in 1996.

PROFITS GALORE

L URO'96 expects to gross about \$125 million from sale of tickets, TV rights, sponsorship deals and related commercial activities. This is more than sixty times the sum generated by the 1966 World Cup staged in England.

RENOVATED STADIUMS

THE eight English football stadiums, at which the EURO'96 matches were played, were transformed by ground improvement costing a total of 72 million pounds. About 20 million pounds of this money was provided by the Football Trust of England set up two decades by the various betting companies.

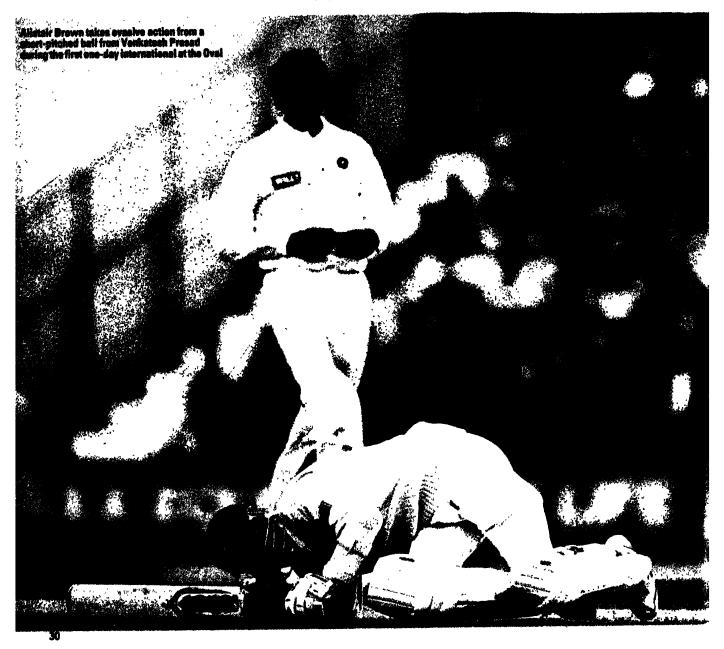
PRIZE MONEY FOR ALL

prize fund of about 47 million pounds is distributed to the 16 teams in Euro'96. 12 per cent goes to the winners, 11 per cent to the runners up, eight and a half per cent to the losing semi finalists, six per cent to the defeated quarter finalists, five per cent to the third placed teams in the group stages and four per cent to the fourth placed teams.

Compiled by Novy Kapadia

KEPING PACE!

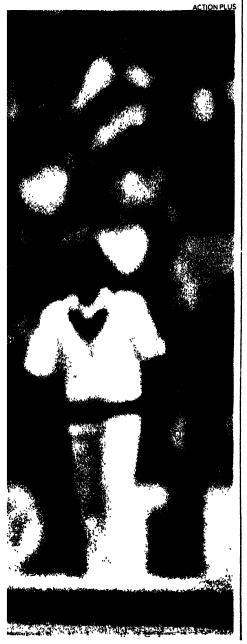
VENKATESH PRASAD, with his recent performances in England, has more or less solidified his position as Srinath's opening partner in the Indian team



T is near the end of his bowling run that you can see the effort that Prasad puts into every ball.

His cheeks quiver with the effort, his eyes are still and concentrated, his heavy broad-shouldered body is shaking. Then, there is that leap at the crease and he grunts, as the ball leaves his fingers.

It is a vicious ball, jumping up from just short of a length. Michael Atherton, at the other end, bends down to take evasive action, his back, surprisingly, to the ball. The ball rises up, hits the back of the helmet with a thud and an over-excited Souray



Ganguly runs forward to take the catch, thinking that it actually came off the bat. His colleagues smile bemusedly, but one thing is clear: Venkatesh Prasad is now bowling with a rare degree of venom, punch and an unerring accuracy.

Venkatesh Prasad has indeed come a long way. For years, he has been on the fringe of international cricket, partly because of the presence of India's greatest bowler, Kapil Dev and his long, long career.

As Sandip Patil, the manager, confirmed, "There's been a generation of bowlers who have had

"There's been a generation of bowlers who have had to wait. Even Srinath had to wait and there have been many others. When Kapil left, Prasad had to wait too,"—Sandip Patil

to wait. Even Srinath had to wait, and there have been many others. When Kapil left, Prasad had to wait too. But this tour has been very good for him so far and I've seen him improve with every game. He and Srinath have been bowling very well together. It's been one of the pluses for us so far."

Venkatesh Prasad is 26 years old. Unlike most Indians, he is very tall: 6'4". He came to cricket at the very late age of 17, when he was invited to play in a local league competition. He started taking wickets in his second season for the Dooravani club. Like now, he also had then a high action and a deceptive pace. Along with Srinath, he graduated to the state junior team. But Srinath quickly moved ahead and became a member of the State team, partnering former Test bowler Roger Binny in the attack.

Prasad made his first class debut, five years ago, but it was in a Rest of Ind:a XI match against England led by Graham, Gooch, in '92-93 that he came to prominence. In the very next

season, he took 50 first class wickets. Azharuddin was his captain in the Duleep Trophy and he was much impressed by the young bowler's physique and his ability to move the ball off the seam.

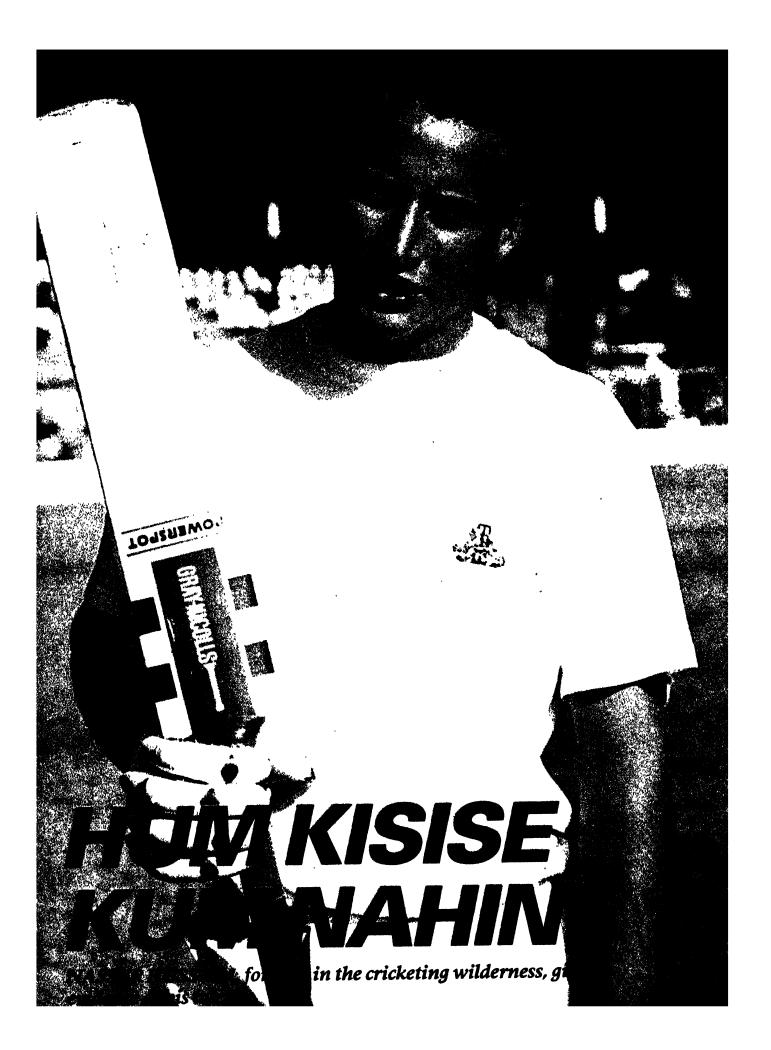
"He is a good athlete," Azharuddin said, "very supple and flexible. He is hard-working and reserved and has put a lot into his game."

But one of the major reasons for his development has been his training at the MRF Pace Foundation in Madras under the tutelage of Dennis Lillee. Prasad indeed credits Lillee for enlarging his variety. He had a well disguised slower ball but now, a jagged leg-cutter, has been developed, while he improved his speed when running towards the crease.

Lillee also helped him to become more aggressive. People of Karnataka are soft, well-behaved, quiet, although burning with an inner fire. But Lillee taught Prasad that he had to fight fire with fire. So, during that electric quarter final against Pakistan in the World Cup, Aamir Sohail despatched one of Prasad's ball to the tence. Waving his bat, and with an angry parent's look on his face, Sohail implied that he would send the next ball the same way. Prasad, in response, bit his lower lip, stared with blazing eyes at the Pakistan captain and then went back to the top of his run. He came charging in and this time, the ball was a beautiful leg cutter that send Aamir Sohail's stumps flying. It was a fitting reply to Sohail's act of condescension. As the Pakistan captain walked off, past Prasad, to cool his heels in the pavilion, the Indian bowler, with a rude gesture, murmured a few words that, from the expression on his face, made it clear, it wasn't a 'I love you my friend' dialogue.

From his current performance, it is clear, that Venkatesh Prasad, along with Jawagal Srinath, is going to be the spearhead of the Indian bowling attack for some years to come. A fine position for a lad to be in, considering that less than ten years ago, he was playing hockey and not cricket.

Ashwin Thomas



ET's hypothesise. Let's suppose that, at this very moment, Mike Atherton is musing over his muesli and decides he has had quite enough of the buffoons and body-language boffins. Or, heaven forbid, swallows something nasty. Who, pray, would toss-up for England? Possibly no one! England though haven't groomed an alternative, but, those whose gaze extend beyond horizon could well dispatch an SOS to Nasser Hussain.

Admittedly, he would first need to overcome at least one of two sizeable obstructions. Paul Prichard, firm friend as he is, says he has no intention of surrendering the Essex captaincy for a few years yet. Moreover, the England selectors had resisted capping Hussain since 1994. Still, it wasn't Graham Gooch's accession to the lofty rank of educated pin-sticker that helped the cause of his Chelmsford chum. It did not require any persuasion from Gooch when the selectors met before the Edgbaston Test.

Michael Atherton has identified Hussain as a type of player and person he wanted this summer. His flair, tenacity and durability attracted the captain, not to mention his brilliant fielding. One may wonder, then why Hussain was not recruited to the England party in South Africa over Christmas instead of Jasson Gallian and why he did not make the World Cup squad.

His omission from the Texaco trophy last month, however, was deliberate, the selectors wished to avoid placing him under pressure to perform in, and be judged upon, a one-day game.

But finally came the moment of truth at Edgbaston, his maiden Test hundred against India in the first of the three Test series, in his eighth match since he was inducted into international cricket six years ago. This must have given the selectors an answer to their long search for No. 3 in the batting order. The last century made by an England No. 3 came from Mike Gatting, 14 Tests ago. Eight different batsmen have been asked to bat there within those games, the chances of anyone else being drafted for that position are few and far between.

Five months ago, he became the first captain of an English representative side for 34 years to leave Pakistan sporting a grimace as the England A handsomely and comprehensively won the one off Test and the one-day series against them. Mike Vockins, the Manager of that tour, who has spent 25 years as Worc estershire Secretary, witnessing the full spectrum of player behaviour, recalled, "I knew of his (Hussain's) reputation. He was said to have been volatile, mercurial and temperamental, all the things that one might worry as a captain—but I would never have known it. He was immensely mature in his leadership, a model captain". Fired as much by passion as perspective, Hussain displayed his handiwork in Karachi and Lahore as well.

From that proud, aquiline nose to that jaunty tread of self-assurance, Hussain has all the hallmarks of the natural born winner. At 28, he is young enough to be in touch with the whippersnappers, wise enough to elicit equal respect from his elders. Gooch and Atherton have always consulted himon the field and the latest addition to this fan club is John Emburey.

Once upon a time. Hussain was the Tom Cruise of the so called Brat pack, the senior member of a quartet (comprising Mark Ramprakash, Graham Thorpe, Dominic Cork and him) substantially longer on dash than doubt. While Thorpe and Cork have shone under the brightest lights, and Ramprakash has had enough lives for a litter of moggies, Hussain's eight Test caps have nearly spanned as many years. True, Dame Fortune has often given him a wide berth, most notably when he broke a wrist on a Barbadian tennis court during his first senior tour in 1990, an injury that set him back for five months at the crucial time of his development.

In the black moments of his early career Hussain raged against himself rather than the world in general. There were, however, times when his off field behaviour fell short and, during the same tour to the Caribbean Island had to be disciplined by Graham Gooch. He was always subjected to sulks and was not an easy man within the team's environment. His second tour with England in 1994 was so mortifying that it seemed to be his last, but after a summer of self-recrimination and reassessment, this Madras-born, Essex-raised man emerged as a more rounded individual.

In simple terms Hussain has grown up. Some cite his marriage as a turning point, but he disputes such analysis. He said, "We'd been going out for eight years. Granted, it did take the emphasis away from cricket a bit, but my wife was very understanding. Okay, she said, if you need to go away and work at your game, do it. I was in Cape Town for three months. Not the best way to start a marriage. Fletch and Goochie felt I was moving round the crease too much. It also helped serving Essex as the Vice Captain, being given responsibility."

There have been other technical tinkerings too. No longer does he succumb so freely to the perils of the open face. The knee bends further when he drives off the front foot. Strokes are neater, timing sweeter.

He admits, "I like fielding as much as batting. Backward point on Sundays, like Jonty Rhodes; slips during the week. I can't understand why youngsters complain about boredom of it all. I'd love to prance around in the covers, having a little dive, having a little doze. That's the nice part of County Cricket. But in the slips you have to concentrate on every ball. I love being in the thick of it." For Nasser Hussain, just like everyone else, life is sweet when the going is good.

Rica Roy

T is unknown whether Dominic Cork has read Stephen Hawking's 'A Brief History of Time'. If he has, he would know that it is impossible to compress time unless travelling somewhere near the speed of light. And yet in just under a year he has done what most great Test bowlers take three or more to achieve; going from a mere Test hopeful to England's premier bowler, and the cutting edge of their attack.

In fact, this time last year, Cork, now fast approaching 25, had not even made his Test debut, a lacklustre Texaco Series delaying his selection until the second Test when his 7 for 53, shook the Windies and Lord's to level the series.

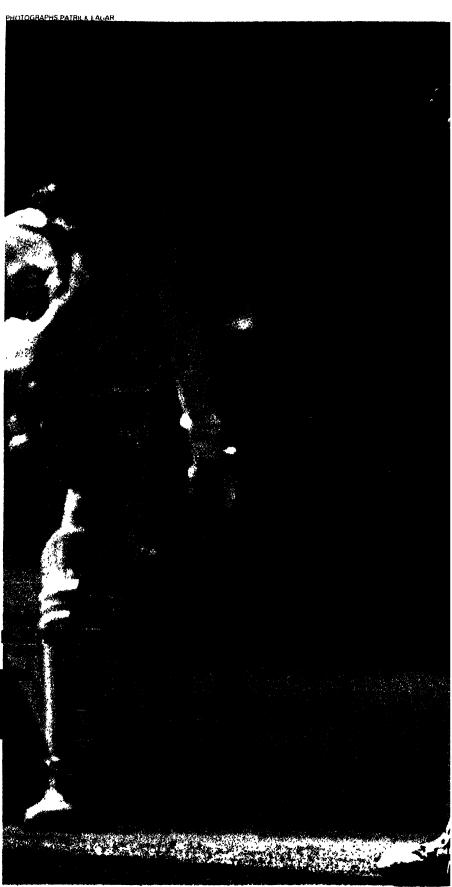
A hattrick at Old Tafford in the fourth Test added to the impact, again helping England to draw level after the debacle at Edgbaston. In the end the series petered out, drawn at two apiece, though Cork, in his first serious international outing, had taken 26 wickets in five Tests.

It was an impressive strike rate and at last, it seemed, England had found themselves the kind of bowler they had lacked since the Botham-Willis era, an out-and-out wicket taker whose self confidence if not equal but nearing that of his idol Botham

However, there is always the

CORK LITTLI

England's DOMINIC CORK is a talented bowler. He's no pushover when it comes to acting either





Cork is long on telent but a little short when it comes to hamming on the field

danger that the initial impact can be too powerful, elevating the expectations of both team-mates and public beyond a realistic ceiling, which needs to be pushed gradually higher by small rather than large increments. Had it all happened a bit too quickly and come a bit too easily? More poignantly, could it be maintained against a cricketing world a year older, and therefore wiser, to his antics?

Cork's reaction is, "I don't really know. It's the pace change I don't mind, especially when I've always dreamed of playing for my country. I still can't believe how good last year has been for me."

'Actually to tell the truth, I used to feel quite frustrated that I'd not been given a chance before. But I wouldn't change that now and I'm glad I went on four A-team tours first, and was kept back. I was a little bit too vocal when I first started and I needed to work on my game both mentally and physically. That experience, especially the tours to India and South Africa, definitely helped mature me. Without them, I may not have had the impact I've had so far."

Such admissions certainly speak volumes for the wisdom of having such tours, but keeping players back appears to be something unique to English cricket. Mind you, even the Indian selectors baulked once, deciding not to send a 15-year-old Tendulkar to face the Windies' quickies in 1988. Instead they waited a year and sent him to face Pakistan.

Seven years on, Tendulkar is out there, facing Cork, under the English sun. A delicious skirmish whose potential to enthrall was seen during the first one-day match at the Oval, where the Indians basically hit Cork out of the attack, taking 12 off his opening over.

Still Atherton has an uncanny knack to over-bowl him, as it was in South Africa where Cork finished the



Dominic Cork resorts to his 'designer appeal' in order to impress the umpire

series having bowled 85 overs. It was far from ideal for someone with a history of knee trouble, the recurrence of which forced him to miss England's World Cup quarter final.

"Actually, I'm the worst one for it. I'm always wanting just one more over. I suppose it's a downfall but, the way I look at it, if I'm not bowling I can't be taking wickets. And whether I'm playing for Derbyshire or for England I want to take wickets, though I'm aware that just as the overs mount up so does the likelihood of injury."

Evidently Cork has a passion to get under the skin of an opponent and his on-field histrionics, which include a 'designer appeal' so theatrical, (it would shame a professional limbo dancer), to border on the tarcical. So much so that one feels he is in danger of not only alienating the audience but the umpire too.

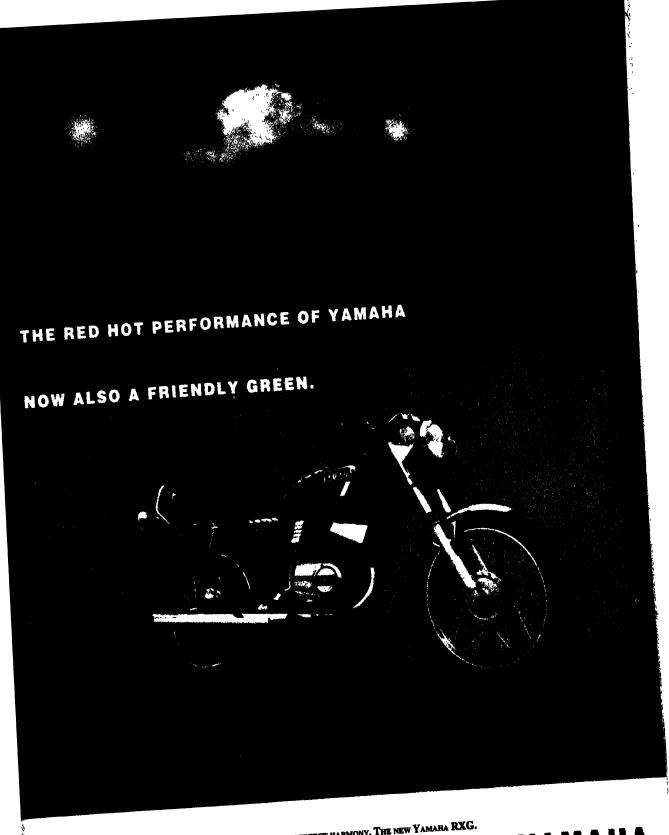
"I've always been an aggressive typ of a person on the pitch, though hopefully off the pitch I'm not. I'm ou there to do a job and I enjoy giving batsmen the stare. I also enjoy appealing. If I've got a chance of getting a wicket I'll try to put up as much into my appeal as possible."

"The whole aggression thing is definitely something that gets me going and keeps me turned on. It helps me keep my concentration up. It's the way I play and that has so far brought me success."

Success formula or not, Dominic Cork is not entirely happy with his form since the World Cup, and he has been busy tinkering and trying out new deliveries. "I'm working on different things, like improving my inswinger and using the crease more. Hopefully, if they come off, they'll increase the chance of my getting wickets. Hopefully".

To be sure, in order to understand the essence of Cork, one must gauge the whole lot of bull that goes along with him.

Rica Roy





MAN, MACHINE AND NATURE IN PERFECT HARMONY. THE NEW YAMAHA RXG.

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FOR EXCELLENCE. AND BECAUSE ITS ECO-FRIENDLY YOU DON'T SACRIFICE THE EARTH

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BYTHE IT AND LET THE WORLD STAND BY.



WAITING EXHALE

After being ignored by the selectors, England's prodigal all-rounder, Chris Lewis has served notice that he is better than the best

BY ROBIN CHATTERJE!

or three to prove to the England selectors, and by the looks of it he isn't doing too badly. But for a man who is by all accounts caught up in his own time warp, Chris Lewis in normal circumstances would not have even bothered to even try and impress the powers-that-be in English cricket. Not just him, any cricketer who has faced the problems that Lewis has would not have wanted to waste his time. That was before England's talented all-rounder decided to take stock of

OPPLICATION

his career and try and review all those causes that had contributed to his rather pre-mature downfall.

It all started after Lewis reportedly attended a series of lectures the theme of which was titled:personal power. The talks must have worked in some way or the other because Lewis today refers to himself in the third person. This new quality in his persona is not the result of so-called vanity (which Lewis has long been accused of) but because he needs to re-affirm himself and his position vis-a-vis world cricket today. A typical Lewis summation of himself would by all counts go like this: "Chris Lewis isn't interested in anyone else's expectations. Chris Lewis is only interested in what he expects of himself."

Obviously both the powers-that-be and Lewis have suddenly started taking a healthy interest in each other. Evidence of this was served when Lewis, after a series of encouraging performances in the county circuit found that he had landed a place for himself in the English cricket team. And he rewarded the selectors for their sudden new-found faith by taking four wickets in his first one-day international against India. The motivated Lewis backed that up by some healthy hitting against the

Today, Lewis is a far contrast from the mixed-up cricketer that he once was





Indian bowling attack. Chris Lewis had arrived!

On the contrary, he had arrived a long time ago, but not before he actually became a journeyman, joining and leaving two counties before settling for Surrey. Lewis' stint with Surrey has ensured that he is rejuvenated and a little more focussed about his cricket. Surrey has also provided him with a fresh appetite and Lewis is back to having batsmen for his meals.

Today's Lewis is a sharp contrast from the mixed-up cricketer who got bogged down by personal and professional problems that occurred in his life three seasons ago. A hip injury ensured that he would have to take on a lighter load as far as cricket was concerned. Personally, there was worse: it is alleged that Lewis' pay check was xeroxed and circulated all over the ground in order to enable people to consult and insult. To be sure, the critics carried out their task with aplomb.

And then his injuries made sure that he was going to be kept out of the game. During those months of ordeal, when Lewis was being branded as an overachiever, he personally claims that his county captain, Tim Robinson did not even give him a glance. To add to his woes, his mother's house in East London was firebombed. The house was uninsured and even that gave credence to talk when some player circulated a rumour that it was all a sympathy building exercise that was personally built up by Lewis himself. After a bit of soul searching, Lewis decided that he was better off with the opposition than with his colleagues. He imposed upon himself a vow of silence...and that was misinterpreted as arrogance. Some guys never win.

On the personal level, Lewis' misfortunes just kept on piling. He secretly wished that he could return to London after all, there was some kind of bonding for him over there: his mother was now living with her sister, who was also sheltering three of Lewis' younger brothers who were at school. There was more: his fiancee was there too, after running away



The English selectors aren't taking Lewis' claims for a place in the side lightly anymore

(and breaking off the engagement) from Nottingham and Lewis. Till today, Lewis believes that he can salvage the relationship.

Just as he believed that he could resurrect his career. But then Lewis has always felt that he was underutilised. Let us sample these hard facts. In terms of talent he is second to none. No other England allrounder (after Botham) has got a Test century. Neither his current captain or Stewart, Thorpe nor Robin Smith can match his second highest first-class score. In the series against Australia he claimed five of the six top order batsmen and scored more runs than four of his teammates. In the previous Test in Adelaide, he rode through the Australian middle order to help his team clinch their first win in Australia after 10 attempts. Lewis was generously rewarded. In the year and a half that followed, he did not get a single phone call from the selectors.

After all these setbacks, did Chris Lewis actually believe in himself? His answer is enough evidence: "I've never had a cricket hero," he endorsed. "Doesn't that tell you how much I believe in myself." No matter, there were still those who tried to undervalue his achievements. They attributed the negative comments about him to his detached, sometimes haughty air. He takes himself too seriously they said. Lewis was cool...too cool.

Does the problem lie with Lewis or with his detractors? He wasn't much different from any other introvert sportsman. Similarly therefore, were his critics a bunch of confused men? Someone like Lewis' former captain, Graham Gooch confessed that he did not know whether to treat him sternly or softly. Lewis provides his personal summation saying that, "The best way to treat the vast majority is to talk to them."

Surrey coach, Dave Gilbert takes the best possible option of sorting Lewis out when he says that, "Lewis is misunderstood. He's his own man and



Lewis reutrned to the English side with a more than encouraging performence against India in the one-dayers

that may have irked people, but they've talked behind his back, turning a molehill into an Everest. Right from the start he told me that he didn't want to hear things third-hand. In the past he hasn't had that honesty." Gilbert also believes that Lewis is in that proper frame of mind, an attitude that could see him serving England well. "I know that he takes as much pride in his batting as his bowling, but for now, for me, he's the strike bowler who can get seven or eight and field like a panther. He hits the gloves harder than any bowler I've seen here. To use him as a stock bowler is madness."

And for a period of time it seemed that the selectors would actually



ignore his claims for a place in the team. To make things worse, England had a power-broker by the name of Raymond Illingworth at the helm of affairs. Illingworth, at times, did not let his left hand know what his right hand was doing. But things have worked out to Lewis' advantage. His dreams have come true, though he confesses that, "There were moments last year when I was low, very low. Chris Lewis is still learning. It takes a confident person to do things the way they want."

And judging by the way things have been going so far, Clairmonte Christopher Lewis is playing on a perfect wicket

FROM RUSSIA, WITH LOVE

YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV, in winning his first grand slam title, has found the true meaning of life and freedom



"It was just a dream. I never felt I could do it, winning a Grand Slam at age 22...For Russia, it means a lot. I know I have many supporters in Russia. I am going to bring that wonderful trophy back to my country." Yevgeny Kafelnikov

VEN though Yevgeny Kafelnikov's heart was wanting to say a thousand words and his senses were playing tug-of-war, trying to keep in

check his soaring spirits, the above PHOTOGRAPHS PROFESSIONAL SPORT words were all that he could manage as soon as he became the first Russian to win a Grand Slam singles crown.

Democracy: it is the word that most people of the former Soviet Union loved to hate. It was also a word that Kafelnikov grew up with. He asked himself a hundred questions about it and even wondered whether he would come face to face with it and all that it meant. All he had with him at that point of time was a little bit of ambition and a whole lot of tennis skills. Could his tennis open up all the closed doors that he had hitherto encountered? Could it answer all the questions?

Over the years since Yevgeny Katc!nikov became a professional tennis player in 1992, he had his little brushes with democracy and the way the world functions outside the Soviet Union, but none of his experiences could match the almost ethereal feeling that swept through his heart when he lifted his first grand slam trophy in the sun bathed centre court of Roland Garros.

This is what it was all about. This is what it meant to have your own place in the sun. To win the world's most gruelling tennis event in the presence of thousands. To create tennis history by becoming the first Russian to win a grand slam title. To win a huge amount of money-not rubles, but greenbacks. And to do all this while the river Seine meandered lazily, while the Champs De Elysses was bathed in sunlight and Paris was enveloped in a coat of bourgeois prosperity. This was democracy and Yevgeny Kafelnikov was loving every minute of it.

It wasn't always like this for the talented young Russian. Before Kafeln i kov wore designer threads, had millions in the bank and drove a Ferrari bearing his initials, he was just like any other kid in the Communist set-up, trying to make his way through life by sorting out his dreams. Tennis was all that he had and even in that he himself admits that his talents

Few tennis pros realise their dreams at 22. Yevgeny Kafelnikov is one of them

were limited. "Some of the guys back home were better than me," he admitted. "In tennis, in school, in whatever, they were better. But now I am like 10 levels higher than they are: the way that I live, the popularity and everything, all the benefits."

For his current position, Kafelnikov can only thank the gradual disintegration of the Soviet Union. It was a phenomenon that helped him to experience a meaningful change like many of his more talented counterparts. Talent in the Soviet Union was unearthed and then brought to fruition by the machinations of the state. Which in turn virtually guaranteed one fact: all the players were totally dependant on the system. The state in turn made sure that all the professional tennis players who played in the circuit, handed over a percentage of their prize money to the government.

With the breaking up of the Soviet states, many talented players were left insecure and unsure of how to proceed with their careers. There was a shortage of coaches: they had used the opening up of the borders to move on to other countries, a clear and well-defined tennis programme and lack of support in terms of infrastructure. Players had no choice but to fade away...

...Not Kafelnikov, nor his good friend and childhood rival Andrei Medvedev. In terms of sheer talent, up until that point of time, Medvedev was considered to be streets ahead of Kafelnikov, a fact that the latter admits to saying, "There was a time when I never thought I could catch up with Andrei." The marketing agents in the West did not seem to mind either way. Soon after that, IMG ended up by signing both Medvedev and Kafelnikov into their fold. While Kafelnikov received peanuts from them, Medvedev got his first taste of the big bucks. All Kafelnikov received was travelling money, but even that was essential.

What was also imperative was the fact that Kafelnikov get himself a new coach. The growing up years in the tennis circuit with longtime coach



For Kafelnikov, freedom never felt so good 44

Valery Shishkin were about to come to an end. By now, Kafelnikov had got his first taste of professional tennis. He realised that in order to make his dreams come true, he would have to toughen up his act. The time to play the satellites, the challengers and all those first round losses were over. It was time to hit the big time. The first thing Kafelnikov did was to get himself a new coach. And who better than Anatoli Lepeshin, the man who ran the Soviet junior program (and trained Kafelnikov) from 1975 to 1991?

Anatoli Lepeshin looks like anything but a tennis coach. But appearances can be deceptive. Inside that massive waistline and chubby features lay a shrewdly analytical tennis brain. And that was what Kafelnikov needed: tennis brains. Joining up with Kafelnikov also presented Lepeshin with an opportunity of his own.

Thanks to the breaking up of the Soviet Union, a number of talented coaches and trainers left their country in search of greener pastures. Lepeshin was one of the very lew who had stayed behind. As far as credentials go, I epeshin was one of the best but the existing social and political situation was ensuring that he was going to stagnate soon. It wasn't surprising then that both Kafelnikov and Lepeshin were good for each other. Under Lepeshin's tutelage and guidance, Kafelnikov turned pro in 1992.

After two years with a lot of satellite experience under his belt, Katelnikov was ranked a promising No. 104 in the world. And if any of you think that be was just on his way up, then think again. By the end of 1995, it seemed as if Kafelnikov had charged his climb up the ladder with a turbo boost: he was No. 6 in the world and had a semi final outing in the French Open as well as quarter final appearances in Wimbledon and the Australian Open. And as far as bringing glory to his country was concerned, Kafelnikov took Russia into two Davis Cup finals. It is therefore ironical that Kalelnikov himself admits that he never would

have reached No. 6 in the world if the Soviet Union and its system had existed.

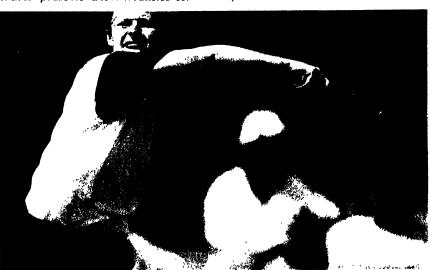
"I was actually really fortunate that our country broke up," he endorsed. "With the Communist regime, I wouldn't have had so many opportunities. Volkov and Chesnokov grew up in that regime and they told me they had only two or three opportunities a year to go and play professional tournaments like the satellites when they were 20 or 21. I started doing it full-time when I was 18."

Even though Kafelnikov managed to prove the critics right with his first grand slam title, he himself admits that he possesses a few weaknesses.

Roland Garros, the critics are once again discussing whether Kafelnikov is slated to be a future No. 1. They base their predictions on his graceful footwork, his lethal groundstrokes and his rare ability to win on almost all surfaces. On the flip side, the only flaw they can notice is his inconsistency but then again, they put it all down to the constant distractions that come in the way, thanks to his new found celebrity.

As for Kalelnikov, what, if any, are his future goals?

"When I finish my career, I want it to be like John McEnroe. Whereever you go, you just ask his name—'Do you know John?'— and people will say, 'Yes,' because he has done so



Nicknamed 'Kalashnikov' for his big hitting, Kafelnikov is a future No.1

One of them being that he is chronically lazy. As his coach testilied, "When I started working with him, he would skip practice like nothing. He preferred not to do anything but get rewards from life. He needs to get professional to the bone, and block out all the distractions that his success is creating." Inspite of his coach's rantings, Kafelnikov's career timetable over the last two years would seem to suggest that he is anything but lazy. In both 1934 and 1995, he played more matches--singles or doubles—than anyone on the ATP Tour. He played 171 in 1994 and 167 in 1995 which. comparatively, are 67 more matches than Pete Sampras played.

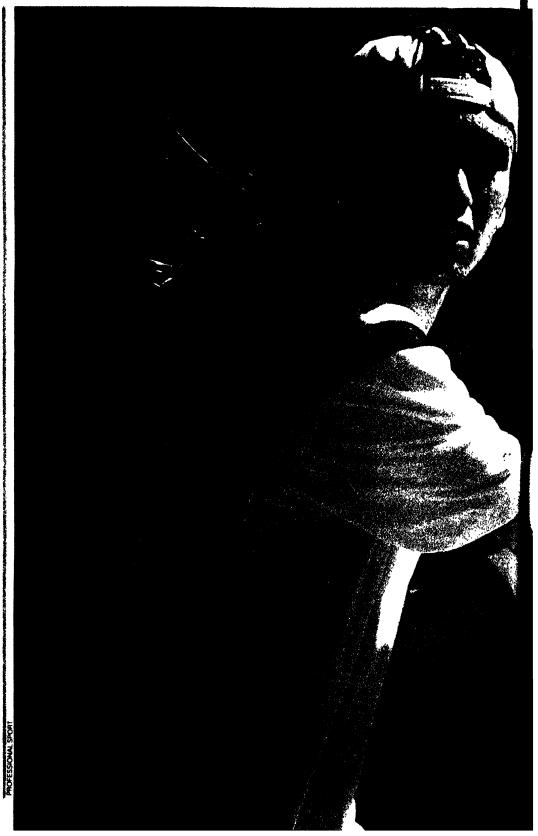
Following his stupendous win at

much for tennis. And that is what I want to do."

Apart from trying to mould his life like his guru, there are two other things Kafelnikov would like to brush up on: his grammar and his attitude. But then again, in a democratic world, one has the power to survive with or without limitations. Everyone has the right to be free and unchained because only then can we find our true mission in life. By winning the French Open on that beautiful day in Paris, Yevgeny Kafelnikov found his own interpretation of freedom and by his own admission, it could not have come a day too soon.

RED HOT CHILE PER

Chile's
MARCELO
RIOS is rude,
mean,
arrogant,
abusive,
aggressive
and a brat...
...He's also a
good tennis
player



BY ROBIN CHATTERJEE

Mercelo Rios is too hot to handle

PER!



Dig this classy excerpt from a press conference:

"Marcelo, are your high cheekbones and long black hair a sign that you are of Indian blood?"

Long pause...Marcelo: "And you're a son of a bitch!"

End of press conference.

id we just see traces of the great John McEnroe here? Get outta here! There is only one John McEnroe.

Let us amend that statement a bit: we have just discovered that there is only one Marcelo Rios. Both of them were (are) hot, and this comparison is not being made simply because young Marcelo Rios, the ATP's newest entrant to the Top 10, comes from Chile.

There is, however, one major difference between young Rios and McEnroe. It is this: while McEnroe was equally adept at taking charge of situations both on and off the court, Rios is more comfortable when he's not doing a press conference. Put him on a tennis court, however, and the change in the manchild is remarkable. It is not surprising therefore, that Rios expresses himself quite eloquently through his tennis. Small wonder then that the critics are going out of their way to talk about one of the most exciting talents to surface on the Tour since John McEnroe himself.

Like his senior and crstwhile counterpart, Rios has a pathological disdain for two kinds of people: those across the net and those whom he has to meet for post-match formalities. His arrogance is not disguised, stemming as it were, from some form of insecurity about his origins. The only message that he proclaims is "What you see, is what you get". So we have to make do with the sight of this talented little left-hander from Chile, with long, flowing hair and a baseball cap which he prefers to wear back to front. Almost everything about Rios is anti-establishment.

It is not surprising therefore, that Rios, the son of a construction engineer, was expelled from his first school for bad behaviour. As far as tennis is concerned, he has consulted, and then insulted a whole string of coaches. finally going one step further and accusing the president of the Chilean tennis federation of being a Mafia boss simply because he did not give Rios as much money as he had expected in a tennis grant.

Strong words from someone so young and misguided. Ahh, but Rios is an exceptionally strong and talented !ennis player as well. The

20-year-old who broke into the Top 10 last month, has shown the experts exactly why he is worthy of that ranking. Perhaps the man who is currently adept at summing up Rios could explain his tennis. He is Peter Lundgren, the former Swedish player and Rios' current coach. "He opens up the court so well," explained Lundgren, adding that, "He does it better than anyone except Agassi, and even then, he has better hands than Andre."

Better hands, filthy mouth, this guy is irrepressible. He's also ambitious and his tennis brings out that message loud and clear. Since Rios is not going to talk about himself and his tennis, the critics have only Lundgren's opinion for their stories. Lundgren explains how his ward takes his opponents apart: "The backhand down the line; the off-forehand which pulls the opponent wide, and then the cross-court forehand. That's it. The guy's dead." Lundgren forgets to mention that after every kill that Rios makes, there is the customary adjustment of his pony tail, as if he is invoking his favourite Inca God, followed by a renewed attempt to make a game face.

It is not surprising that the media have been making comparisons of Rios with John McEnroe. They put it down to the deft touch, the ability to make a point out of virtually nothing while at the same time pretending that the whole world has hatched a conspiracy against him and his talents.

Seeded seventh at the French Open, Rios gave evidence of his ample talent by crushing Petr Korda. Though the two have a lot of similarities in terms of skill, the former French Open finalist was humbled by Rios 6-3,6-3,6-2. The scoreline itself suggests the firmness of Rios' victory. It also suggests that Rios will leave no stone unturned in order to achieve his lofty goals.

Even if that means that he has to be constantly nasty. But coach Lundgren covers up for him by explaining that, "He gets hounded by the press in Chile and that has made him very wary. But he does need to watch how he speaks to people. It will only make his life easier in the long run."

So while he is making that long and arduous climb, up the ATP ladder, while in everyone's personal opinion, Marcelo Rios continues to cloak his persona with that aura of mystery. And as for tennis journos, do yourself a favour, stop questioning him on his origins: Rios might just start questioning your parentage.

IM COURIER is one of tennis' most misunderstood stars. The two-time Australian and French champion hates to lose, and that herce intensity continues at press conferences where he always gives reporters a piece of his mind. He really lets it all hang out in this interview which he could have had.

Thanks for agreeing to talk.

Ok, ok. I just hope I don't regret it.

I take it you've had some problems with the press, Rock. Hey! Only my friends call me Rock.

No problem, Jimbo.

Hey! That's Connors' nickname. Can't you tell the difference? He's retired anyway.

He's retired, but he's never been retiring. A couple of years ago, Jimbo knocked you and Sampras

for being passionless and boring. Yeah, and I fired right back at that creep.

You showed some passion then? You bet! I told him his day is done, an now we're doing it. And we're doing pretty well and not with our middle finger in the air and our hands on ou crotches.

Jim Courier: a misunderstood star



Didn't Jimbo get the last word in though?

What do you mean?

He claimed you weren't doing anything well because you had quit the tour in disgust in mid-season, and if you were a better entertainer, you'd get more ink in the papers.

Don't give me that crap!

Now you're talking, big guy. Didn't you hear my latest and greatest quote?

I must have missed it.

A reporter asked me why my ranking improved in 1995. I said: "Plenty of orange juice and sex!"

Considering you only improved from No.13 to No.8, I guess you didn't get that much of either.

Keep it up and I'll ram that pencil down your freaking eye socket.

Ok, settle down Jimbo—I mean, Jim.

Sometimes I get the feeling you guys are trying to bait me, and I'm just not gonna take it anymore

No problem, we're your friends, Jimmy.

Hey! Call me Jim.

Ok, Jim. Thomas Muster recently bragged that he's had sex with 1,000 women. And Andre Agassi says teenage girls give him nude photos with their phone numbers on the back side. Are you also scoring big-time with the babes?

Thanks for asking As you know, I'm not nasty like Muster and I'm not bald like Agassi. As you can see, I'm tall, blond and handsome. I'm not going to say publicly I've had 20,000 like Wilt 'The Stilt' Chamberlain, but I get plenty. And what's more, unlike those jokers, I get repeaters.

So there's no truth to the widespread conception that, unlike acrobatic volleyers, unimaginative baseliners can't

"DON'T GIVE METHAT CRAP"!

JIM COURIER goes ballistic in an interview that took place entirely in journalist Paul Fein's head

hack it in bed?

No way! I got moves and angles you wouldn't believe

Moving right along, do you think Wilander and Novacek are guilty of taking cocaine, as the International Tennis Federation charged?

In America, we always say you're innocent until proven guilty, and if you're guilty, we give 'em suspended sentences

Have you ever taken drugs? I want a yes or no answer.

Yes or no.

You're no dumb jock, that's for sure.

Let's put it this way. I graduated from high school, which is more than Steffi and Monica did. And, by the way, I not only read on planes, I read at changeovers.

I remember you caught some flak for reading *Maybe the Moon* during a match against Andrei

Medvedev at the ATP Tour World Championships.

Yeah That was a burn rap, too. Tracy Austin used to polish her fingernails at changeovers, and Zvereva and Fernandez read dirty jokes to each other, to relax when they are playing doubles. Why is everybody always picking on me⁻²

Who knows? Maybe it's your personality.

My personality!

Well, Jim, you do tend to get a bit grumpy.

Like when?

Like the time you said, "Frankly there are a lot of a---holes in the press. They have huge egos and get off putting players down." I said that?

You did. And you also said, "There are circumstances where I have to be a jerk because people are being jerks."

I'm just glad this isn't one of them.

SPECIAL OLYMPIC SECTION



GENDER

Many successful female athletes have been accused of having strong hormonal links with their opposite sex

BY UDAY K CHAKRABORTY

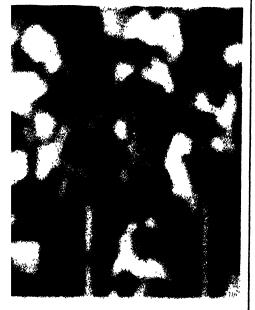


NILOS

ALWAYS THE LATEST

BENDERS!

TANISLAWA
WALALASIEWIEZ was born
in Poland. While she was still
an infant her parents
immigrated to the United States and
settled down in the land of
opportunity. And with the passage of





time the Polish girl came to be known as Stella Walsh.

Stella, a strong, athletic girl became very proficient in the sprints and in 1930 became the first woman to break the 12 seconds barrier for the 100 yards sprint. But, since in those days even the top women athletes were not sponsored she found herself without a job or a source of income just before the Olympics.

It was at that point of time that Stella made a major decision. Twenty four hours before she was scheduled to receive U.S. naturalisation papers, she accepted a job offer from the Polish Consulate in New York and decided to compete for Poland in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games Representing Poland, she won the 100 metre sprint title in a world record equalling time of 11.9, just managing to stay ahead of Hilde Strike of Canada.

As a retaliatory measure the U.S. authorities held back her naturalisation papers until 1947, denying her U.S. citizenship. So, Stella represented Poland again in the next edition of the Games at Berlin and won a silver medal being beaten by Helen Stephen, a 6 foot farm girl from the USA.

Canadian officials had described Walsh as having "long man---like strides" in the Los Angeles Olympics. In the Berlin Games, Polish

A woman with a man's hormones? Fatima Whitbread the javelin thrower from Great Britain is so muscular that she could easily pass off as a man THE MAN.

THE MACHINE.

THE TYRE...







M

R

journalists accused Helen Stephen of "being a man."

After the Berlin Olympics both Stella and Helen decided to call it quits from the athletics arena and settled down to a real mundane life and in due process became... forgotten stars.

On December 4, 1980, Stella Walsh went to a discount store when in the parking lot she got caught in a robbery attempt and was shot to death. The autopsy result came as a shock. Stella Walsh, who had in her lifetime set 11 world records and two Olympic medals, was in fact a MAN.

So, a woman is not really a woman even if she says so. That was the reason why from the 1960 Rome Olympics Games onwards, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) have made sex tests mandatory. In fact, today any woman who wants to take part in any international athletic meet must pass a test after which the IAAF issues a certificate officially attesting her female status.

The test from an examination of the athlete's hair root or a scrapping of the cheek from inside the month must show that she has two X chromosomes (men have one X and one Y chromosome). The tests are not done because the IAAF is run by misogynists; they are an attempt to prevent athletes from cheating.

In 1938, a German girl called Dora Ratjen jumped a world record of 5 feet 7 inches in the high jump. She had to be stripped off her victory because she was a man. She reappeared in Hamburg, later, as a waiter called Herman.

In 1960 and 1964, two Russian

sisters Tamara and Irene Press won Olympic gold medals at the Olympics. Observers suspected them of not being women, but they had no means to prove it. The sex test might have helped to either condemn or clear them. In 1980, several women competitors failed the test at the Moscow Olympics. They were not allowed to take part.

But the sex tests are far from fool proof. Experts say that as many as six in every thousand of us probably fall in between the definition of male and female as defined by the test.

Occasionally a person with male Y chromosomes develops physically as a female and may be happily married as a woman, although infertile. And the American trans sexual tennis player Dr. Renee Richard's points out:

"There are many varieties of patterns. A whole mosaic of possibilities exists:XO, XXY, XYY, Single Xs."

The tests can prove to be not only degrading but also dubious. In the Tokyo Olympics of 1964, the Polish athlete Ewa Klobukowska, won a bronze medal in the 100m sprint and the gold in the 4x100m relay. One year later, she set a world record of 11.1 seconds in the 100m sprint. Following a controversy, she was certified as a woman in 1966. But in 1967 six doctors said she had "one chromosome too many to be declared a woman for the purpose of athletic competition." Following this verdict her records were removed by the IAAF. Much later, years after her bitter humiliation. Klobukowska became a mother.

Jarmila Kratochvilova, the

ALWAYS THE LAT



Jarmila Kratochvilova the Czech superstar was always labelled as being more a man than a woman, and the 400 and 800 metres champion never got the recognition that should have been awarded to a champion athlete

Czechoslovakian super star has often been taunted by insinuation that she may not be a pure woman. She was the world record holder in the 400 metres and 800 metres in the early Eighties. She was a certified woman according to the chromosome test. But many still doubted. She had sinewy ridges of muscle that some found offensive and others found suspicious in a woman. But, then she had passed all the drug and hormone tests.

Due to the boycott by the Socialist countries of the Los Angeles Olympic Games (1984) Jarmila could not win any Olympic gold medal. Incidentally from that edition of the Games, in addition to sex tests, there were examinations for the presence of abnormal quantities of the male sex hormone testosterone in a woman athlete.

Amidst all this confusion there is a question confronting us at the moment. Why are we still dominated by sex stereotypes? Or are we merely unnerved by the appearance of a woman who in musculature and prowess closes the gap on man?

If we can accept Alice Cooper and Boy George, then why not Jarmila or Stella Walsh? As George Bernard Shaw asked the prophetic question two generations ago. "Why can't woman be more like a man?" Indeed, why can't she?



MICHAEL LEARNS TO ROCK

Sprint king, MICHAEL JOHNSON, is aiming for an unprecedented 200m and 400m Olympic double at this summer's Atlanta Olympics. In the process, he hopes to become a legend

BY T.S. VENKATARAMAN

CAN through your diary to that red letter day of August 5, 1992, in Barcelona, and mark down the time: 8 50 p.m. and the name Michael Johnson. That was the moment when he created Olympic history. To see Johnson run that last lap of the 400m relay was to see poetry, and brilliance in motion. He ran so last, so fast, that he ended up running the lastest 400m in the history of athletics, albeit not from a standing position. The result the American 4 x 400m relay team set a world record in the process.

This Dallas-born athlete, found this world record as some consolation

after, surprisingly, he could not make it to the final of the 400m, let alone win a gold. The cause was food poisoning and that had weakened him terribly. So, from being a certainty to winning the 400m gold, he ended up winning nothing. But he was philosophical about it. "The sun will be out tommorrow. The stars will be out tonight. It was only a race," he stated. Michael Johnson has been winning races, lots of them, for the past few years. But Johnson has yet to gain the worldwide fame of a Carl Lewis.

The Olympic arena in Atlanta should change that; what it should do is give Michael Johnson the opportunity to set himself apart and

above most Olympic sprint champions because he is trying for the unique double of golds in the 200m and the 400m. For the past four years, he has been number one in the 200m and 400m, a combination of distances which is rare and certainly a feat no one else has ever accomplished.

Sprinters normally have a forward lean, seemingly to push forward to the finishing line; Johnson runs bolt upright, looking like a guardsman doing more than a quick march. But as his coach Clyde Hart said, tongue in cheek, "Maybe some people are spending time going up and down and

Michael Johnson has a funny running style but what does it matter, as long as he keeps winning gold medals



PHOTOGRAPHS PROFESSIONAL SPORT





M R F

LOGRIP



YS THE INTEGT

An ecstatic Michael Johnson celebrates his 200m win at the World Athletic championships at Gothenberg in 1995

not enough going forward." Added Johnson's business manager, Brad Hunt, "You don't take a guy who runs 19.7 for the 200m and 43.6 for the 400 and say now you have to change your running style."

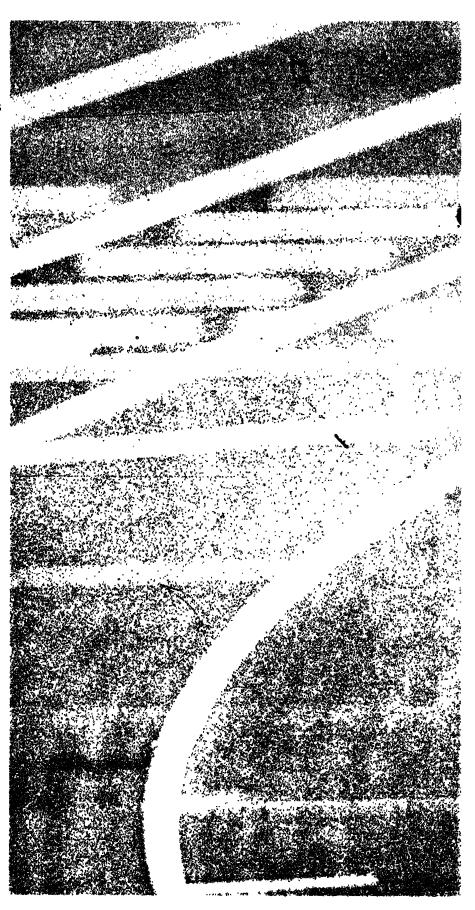
That is absolutely true. It does not matter, how he runs, as long as he is winning races. Now, with the fall of Communism, the Olympic Games have lost their label as a sporting confrontation between the USA and Russia, but there will be plenty of Russian athletes putting up a stiff challenge for the gold at Atlanta. However, if there is such a thing as an athletic certainty, then it comes in the shape of Michael Johnson in the 200m and the 400m.

Michael Johnson took the first step toward his quest for an unprecedented sprint double at the USA-Mobil Championships, in the 400m with a timing of 43.66sec on the night of 16 June, '96. Johnson's scintillating performance was his 41st consecutive victory, indoors or outdoors, since 1990. It came shortly after Mike Marsh won a three-man blanket finish in the men's 100, with neither world record-holder Leroy Burrell nor three-time world champion Carl Lewis in the mix.

If Michael Johnson is head and shoulders above his rivals in the 200 and 400m (though, in some ways, he is rather like that old hand among the sprinting fraternity), he is also looking increasingly like a pop star in the sport. He earns an estimated \$1 million from endorsements, appearance fees and performance bonuses. He enjoys five-star hotel accommodation, stretch limousines and lives a lifestyle of a wealthy man.

"Michael's right there with Carl Lewis", US athletics chief Ollen Cassell said of the eight-time Olympic champion, "Carl has been a great competitor, a great warrior, but now it's Michael."

World track officials some time back had altered the time-table for the Atlanta Olympics to give Michael









Johnson a chance to attempt an unprecedented sprint double. The International Amateur Athletic Federation President, Mr Primo Nebiolo last year had said that an extra 50 minutes had been added between events to allow Johnson to go for the gold in both the 200 and 400 metres.

The original schedule for day six of the Atlanta track competition had the 200m semi-final at 6.50 pm and the 400 final at 8.35 pm, leaving about 1 nour 45 minutes between the races. The revised schedule has the 200 semi-final at 6.30 pm and the 400 final at 9.05 pm., a gap of 2 hours, 35 minutes. "He can run easily," Nebiolo aid. "If he runs backwards, he can till do it. This schedule is very good or him."

Michael Johnson being interviewed after his surprise loss in the 200m semi final at the '92 Barcelona Olympic Games. He later stated that he had been weakened by food poisoning

Talk like this has created a lot of pressure on Michael Johnson. As Carl Lewis, who himself suffered from enormous pressure when he was aiming for an unprecedented four gold medals at the Los Angeles Olympics explained, "Michael's situation is similar to what I went through in 1984. You have to win or you are not successful and I think this is unfair for anybody to have to deal with.

"The Olympic Games bring together the best in the world and it's going to be difficult dealing with the expectations, dealing with the press, the training and the travelling. And the schedule will be very tough."

Michael Johnson knows and understands the pressure he expects to be under at Atlanta. He says, "It definitely adds a tremendous amount of pressure going into the Games. People are going to say an entire Olympic schedule was changed for you."

But Michael Johnson has had a lot of experience of high-pressure situations, having taken part in Olympic and World Championships events. So, he should be able to handle the pressure-cooker atmosphere. As a confident Johnson said, "The only one who can beat me is me."

BLOODBATH!

The sanctity of the Olympic Games was desecrated when Palestinian guerrillas took 11 Israeli athletes hostage. The result was tragic for the spirit of peace and friendship that the Olympics was supposed to foster

BY SHEVLIN SEBASTIAN

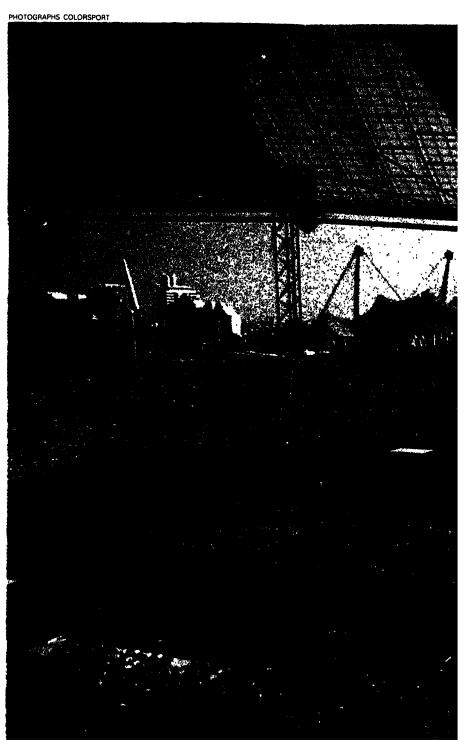
UNICH was sleeping. It was 4 a.m. on September 5 in 1972. Eight men clad in multi-coloured track suits and running shoes walked up to a 6 1/2 feet fence with athletic bags containing machine guns and hand grenades. Swiftly, they scaled the fence and moved towards a three-storey building on 31 Connollystrasse.

On the third floor, the leader knocked on a door and enquired, "Is this the Israeli team?" Mr.Moshe Weinberg, a wrestling coach, opened the door a crack and, sensing danger, immediately banged it shut and yelled loudly in Hebrew, "Hevra Tisalku" (Boys, get out!). The terrorists machine gunned him through the door, killing him instantly.

By the time, they entered the flat, 18 Israelis had fled and the remaining nine were quickly captured. "I heard the knocking and then a terrible cry," said Mr. Tuvia Sokolsky, a weightlifting coach, "but I knew instinctively that it was an Arab attack. Then I heard my friends yelling, 'Get out! Escape!' I couldn't open the window, so I broke it and ran out."

The hostages were tied with ropes and placed together on a couch. By 6 a.m. Munich police was informed about the developments by escaping Israelis and they cordoned off the area. At nine a.m., a terrorist opened a window and threw down a sheet of

Picture shows the memorial service being held for the slain Israeli athletes at the Olympic Stadium in Munich



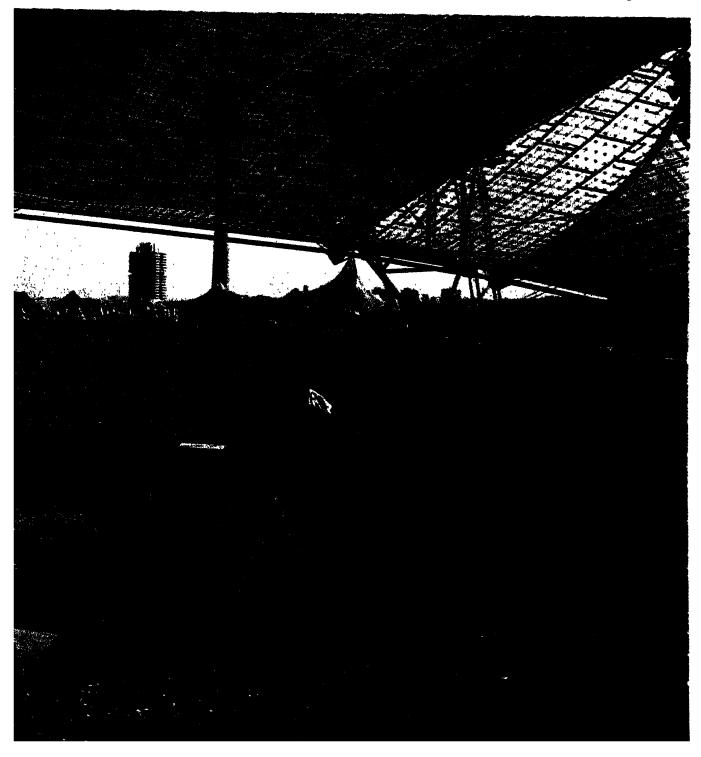
paper, containing demands, to the waiting police. It was written in English and the terrorists demanded the release of 200 Palestinians held in Israeli jails and free passage to an Arab country. Any failure in compliance, the paper warned, would result in the 'execution of the hostages' to show 'what is what'. The deadline was set at 12 noon.

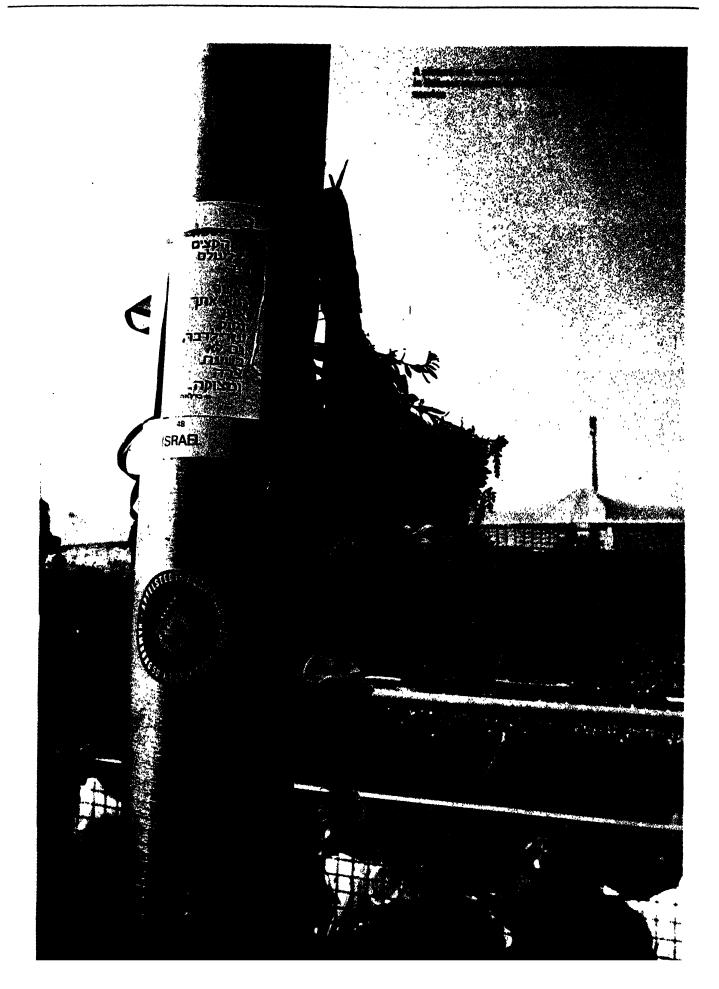
In the meantime, the German

government informed the Israelis about the developments and within a short while, the Israeli Cabinet under Prime Minister Golda Meir in an emergency session conveyed the following message to the Germans. They were not a) going to release any terrorist held prisoner in Israel and b) the Germans had full responsibility for any rescue action. The noon deadline passed and on the pleading of

German officials, a new deadline was set for 3 p.m.

After receiving the statement from the Israeli Cabinet and after studying all the options, the terrorists were informed that they would, apparently, be allowed to leave for an Arab country with the hostages. So, at 10 p.m., several hours after the deadline, the hostages, along with the terrorists, got into a waiting German





bus which took them to a nearby helicopter pad. From there, the group was taken to Furstenfeldbruck airport, which lay 16 miles from Munich. It was here that the Germans intended to ambush the terrorists.

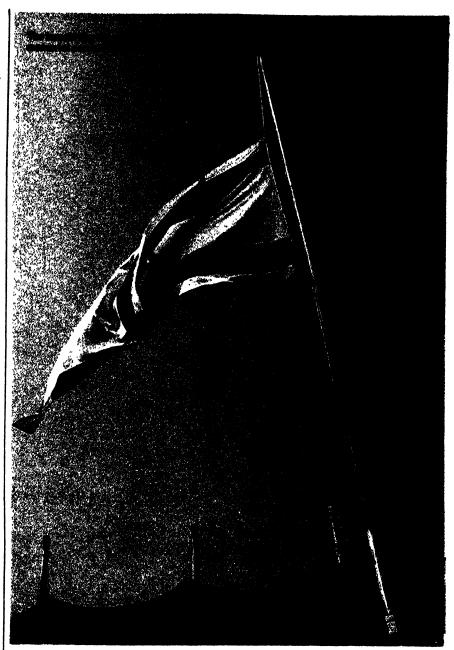
Accordingly, sharpshooters were placed on the control tower and on the field bordering the airport. Mr. Willy Brandt, the West German Chancellor, had completely ruled out the possibility of permitting the terrorists to fly away with the prisoners, taking them to what would be certain death. "That would be impossible for an honourable country to allow to happen. We are responsible for the fate of these people."

The sharpshooters, five of them, were instructed to shoot when the Arabs presented the greatest number of targets. When four came into view, one sharpshooter let off a round and the others followed suit. The two Arabs guarding the helicopter crew were hit and another guerilla on the tarmac was killed. Thereafter, a firefight followed and two more were killed. Finally, the remaining three terrorists surrendered.

In the meanwhile, all the hostages were killed. One group of four was burnt to death when a terrorist threw a grenade and set fire to the helicopter in which they were sitting. Another group was machine gunned to death by the Arabs. And thus, at three a.m. in the morning, ended the 23-hour 'reign of terror' which began with that ominous knock on the door.

Surprisingly, despite knowing the fanaticism of the Arab terrorists, the Israelis had no security at all. "Although" says Asher Mashira, an Israeli student, "We have learned to be on guard for this kind of thing almost all the time, but not here—not with all the nations gathered in peace, with all the talk about sportsmanship and freedom."

After this brutal attack, the concept of the open, friendly Games was wiped out forever. Thereafter, in succeeding Olympics, security was the prime concern of the organisers and the International Olympic



Committee. At Montreal and Moscow, the Olympic Village was transformed into a mini concentration camp with gun-toting guards and metal detectors.

Said Issac Ofek, president of the Israeli Olympic Committee, after two weeks in Los Angeles, "We spent our two weeks in Los Angeles going over every inch of ground. At Munich, the Germans were anxious not to give the impression that the athletes were living in a concentration camp. They went out of their way in that respect.

Their security men did not even carry arms and the result was tragic—for the Olympics and for us. In Los Angeles, it will be different as far as we can see. I can't be too specific, but the communication equipment will be first class. There will be fast, well-equipped vehicles always on alert, even helicopters, and most important of all, very good intelligence!"

This article was originally published in 'The Telegraph', July 16th, 1984

News Quote: "I'm feeling good. I want all the chicks to see me. Don't quote me on that. My girlfriend will kill me,"-Jim Courier on his new haircut.

ELL, this quote naturally excited all the chicks. There was a long line of nubile chicks in front of Madame Murgi's beauty parlour, in Hen Land. The chicks chirped among themselves. Jana chick said, "This is the first time a human is showing interest in us sexually. Normally, they only like to eat us."

"Times are changing," Zina chick replied, "all the world over, there is the rise of the lower castes. Who knows we might even win Wimbledon one day?"

The other chicks nodded in agreement. One by one, they went into the parlour. Later, they came out, their hair coiffed and curled, their faces having the most elaborate make-up and a few chicks decided to have a haircut like the one that Jim had. A nice, short, sweet style.

"Are we all going to make a try?"asked Mary Joe chick, as she skeptically inspected the other chicks.

It was finally decided that Mary Joe and Zina, in a white and black combination, would represent the other chicks. If Jim didn't like the white chick, then there was Zina for back up. They stood outside the Queens' Club dressing room, a week before the Wimbledon Championships were to start. They

were both dressed in micro red mini skirts and stiletto heels and they wore bright red lipstick.

As Jim Courier approached the dressing room, Mary Joe chick said, "Hi Jim, I heard that you were planning to go after the chicks."

Jim Courier quickly looked around; then he whispered, "Yes, I am looking out for fresh chicks. I am a little tired of broiler chickens. But please keep an eye out for my girlfriend."

"You sound like a henpecked husband." Zina said, in her thick drawl, "come on man, be a man."

Jim Courier had a crestfallen look on his face. Both the chicks just found him too cute. Mary Joe chick whispered to the strongly built Zina, "Go find the girlfriend and give her a taste of your fist. I'll give you Jim after I've finished with him."

So Zina chick went in search of Jim Courier's girlfriend. Mary Joe chick

and Jim went into the dressing room...."What happened next?" you might ask. How do I know? I am just the writer of this piece, not a participant.

Later, Zina chick approached Jim in the dressing room but he began to shake and shiver at the sight of her muscular body.

"Why are you behaving like a chicken heart?" Zina asked. She made a grab for Jim but he threw himself out of the window and fled from Queens. A frustrated Zina broke down the mirrors and the walls of the dressing room.

"You are no better than the English football team on their Cathay Pacific flight from Hongkong," the bobby said, as he arrested Zina and put her in a chicken coop.

Later, Jim Courier saw his girlfriend and had such a bad case of the jitters, he was diagnosed as having chicken pox.

"I am sorry," the doctor said politely, "you will probably have to miss Wimbledon."

"Aaah," groaned Jim Courier in frustration, as he smashed up the hotel room. The same bobby arrested Jim and instead of putting him in the lock-up, he put him in the same coop as Zina.

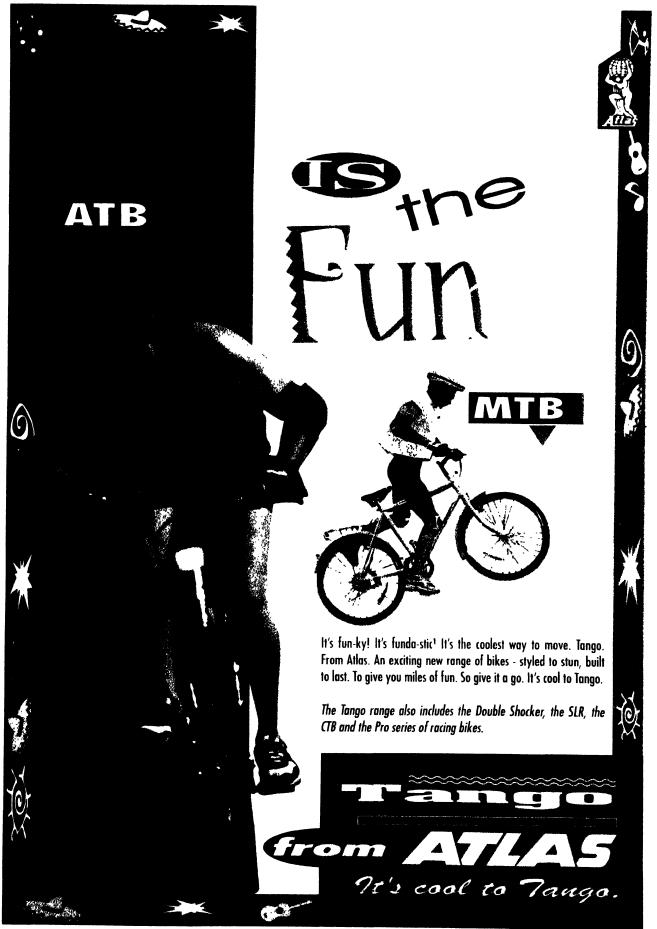
Naturally, the coop broke down under Zina's assault. So the bobby had no option, but to send both of them to Old MacDonald's farm:

Old MacDonald had a farm, EIEIO. And on his farm, he had some chicks, FIFIO With a chick chick here. and a Jim Jim there, Here a chick, there a Jim, Everywhere a chick/Jim. Old MacDonald had a farm. EIEIO.

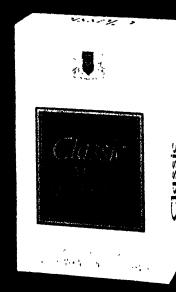
Well, it became absolutely clear to the rest of the tennis players on this planet that Jim Courier had reached nirvana. After all, what's a Grand Slam title compared to spending time on Old MacDonald's farm with all the chicks?

Shevlin Sebastian





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OLYMPIC PREVIEW ISSUE

The world gears up for the century's last Olympics

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LIFE IN THE LAST LANE

The chances of India doing well, specially in athletics at Atlanta, look slim. As usual.

ATLANTA BRAVES!

A who's who of the possible medal winners at Atlanta

MEDAL WINNERS AT BARCELONA

A sport by sport statistical survey of the medal winners at Barcelona. Plus, a statistical insight into the athletic medal winners over the last 100 years of the Olympics







JONATHAN EDWARDS: PROFILE

1.18

DENNIS, THE MENACE

ATLAS SHRUGGED: NAIM SULEYMANOGLU

INDIAN HOCKEY: IN THE LINE OF FIRE

GWEN TORRENCE: THE BIGGEST BITCH ON TRACK

WATER- BABE!: FRANZISCA VAN ALMSICK

OLYMPIC QUIZ

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY COLORSPORT AND PROFESSIONAL SPORT

ELIFE IN THE LAST LANE

Once again, the Olympics have come around. But the chances of India doing well, especially in athletics, looks slim. As usual.



BY SHEVLIN SEBASTIAN

T the start of every Olympic Games, the focus of the Indian public falls once again on athletics. We

start seeing Olympic races on TV. We see other countries go crazy, as they win medals. We see small countries like Bermuda winning a medal. Then, without fail

the standard question of the past several years comes up: how come, we, a nation of 950 million, cannot win a single gold medal?

There is a nationwide breast-beating, Parliament asks questions about why our athletes don't do well; sportswriters dip their pens in acid; they lash out at the poor administrative set-up, the lack of international exposure of our athletes and so on and so forth. Soon, two weeks pass and the Olympics is over. Once again, everything is back to square one. The public forgets about athletics. They go back to their daily routine. The Amateur Athletic Federation of India goes to sleep. The sportswriters write on other topics. Parliament has other weightier matters to discuss. Everything becomes quiet, till the next Olympics comes along....

From the way things are going, there is every possibility that our performance at this month's Atlanta Olympics is going to be the same. We

Bahadur Prasad: India's ageing talent is representing India once again. But has too much water passed under the bridge for him?

Discover the spectacular South Eastern

Way back in 1887, a small stretch of railway line was laid in an obscure corner of Central India. After a century and a decade it has metamorphosed into a spectacular Railway, encompassing six states of India.

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The Lingarai Temple at Bhubaneswar, the Jagannath

temple at Puri and the Sun temple Konark are acclaimed masterpieces in stone. Others include the Mukteshwar Temple, Raja Rani Temple etc. Places of historic interests include Vishnupur, Mandla Fort, Chanda Fort etc. rockhewn sculptures Dhauli and the Ashokan Rock

Edict immortalize life and times of ancient India.

The South Eastern Railway also stretches across the region which is a haven for the

> lovers of birds and animals. Kanha-the biggest wild life sanctuary in India. Similipal. Bandhavgarh and the Nandan Kanan are magnificent habitat for various wild life species. There's also the famous Chilika lake—the largest salt water lake in the country on

this route. Birdwatchers and those interested in fishing will have a marvellous time here.

For the nature lovers, the South Eastern Railway route is

a veritable store house. The golden sea beaches beckon you for an ideal holiday. The beach resorts at Digha, Puri, Gopalpur and Chandipur let you relax from the cares and anxieties, and recharge your batteries. Not to mention. several beautiful waterfalls! The Hundru Falls -- one of the

and the spectacular Chitrakut Falls near Jagadalpur are tourists' delights.

highest water-falls in the world

One can steal a visit to the giant temples of today,

in this region. The Steel Plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Rourkela, Burnpur, Jamshedpur & Visakhapatnam, the giant **Aluminium** companies NALCO at Angul and BALCO at Korba and three major ports at Haldia,

Paradeep and Visakhapatnam are worth a visit.

This region is home to several providing the scholars and anthropoligists tremendous opportunity to study and document their customs and rituals.

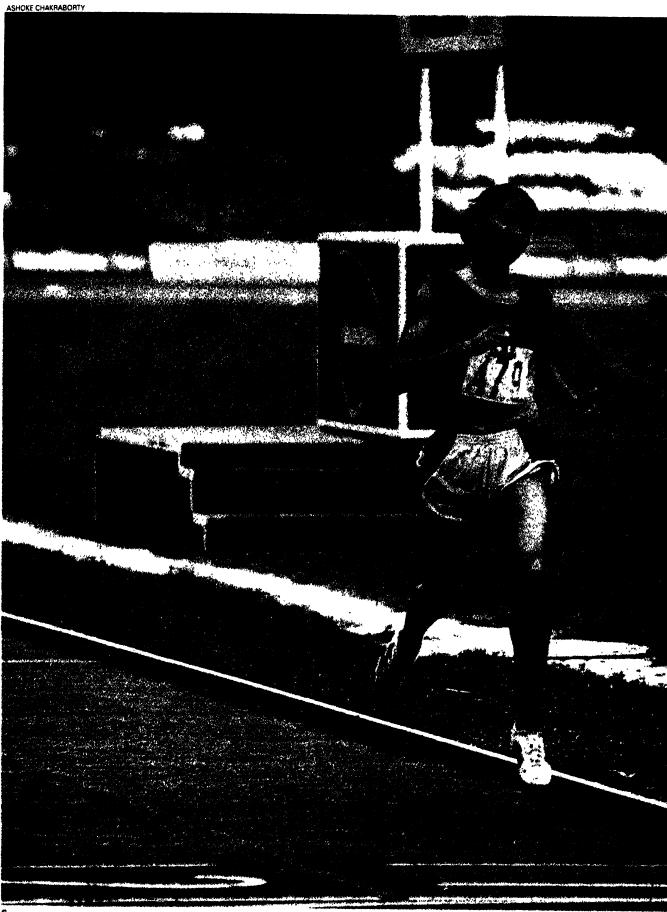




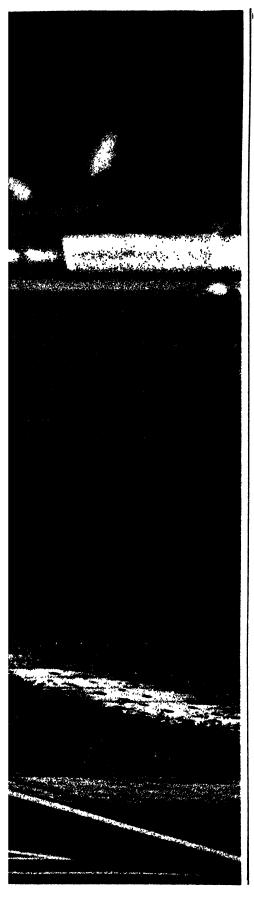
wish to spend you sometime, away from the rush and crowd, there are two hotels with old-world charm run by this Railway, one at Puri and the other at Ranchi which are equipped with all modern comforts in a colonial ambience.

Discover the spectacular South Eastern Railway. The Railway ever concerned for safety, security, punctuality and instant satisfaction.











have the same jaded talents still representing us: Bahadur Prasad, Shiny Wilson, P.T.Usha, etc. They are now more older and even further adrift of their best times, which is, of course, nowhere near world class standards. Forget about world standards, we are not even near top class Asian timings. So what can we expect from these ageing talents? The answer is: nothing much. Or rather, nothing at all.

Bahadur Prasad is the most wasted Jyotirmoyee Sikdar (left) and Shiny Wilson (above) are representing India in the middle distance events. For Jyotirmoyee, it will be a valuable learning experience while this is definitely Shiny's swan song

talent in Indian athletics. I mean, his timings don't seem to improve as the years go by. On a good day, he comes up with a fabulous time (at least, by Indian standards): 13:29.70 for the 5000m. He also has a time of 3:38 for the 1500m. But, in the very next race, he slides once again. He's like a yo-yo. He goes up. Then he goes down. There is no consistency.

He rarely travels abroad to take part in the intensely competitive European circuit. He prefers to sit tight at home and blame the AAFI for the lack of exposure. When he takes part in international events, it is clear that he is far beneath the existing world



class standards. The result: he beats a hasty retreat. It will be a miracle if he makes it past the second round at the Atlanta Olympics.

Similarly, nothing much can be expected of Shiny Wilson. She is now at the fag end of her career. Surely, against the Chinese and the Americans, she stands no chance. As for P.T.Usha, one wonders why she continues to compete. What is the reason behind it? Surely she knows that there is no scope for glory. Her standard has declined so perceptibly. By having indifferent results at international meets, her image as a great Asian champion has been shattered irrevocably.

Then, there is Jyotirmoyee Sikdar. She promised much last year, winning the lone gold medal for India at the

Limba Ram: it's been a long time since he's had a bulls-eye in any tournament. Can India hope for anything from him at the Atlanta Olympics?



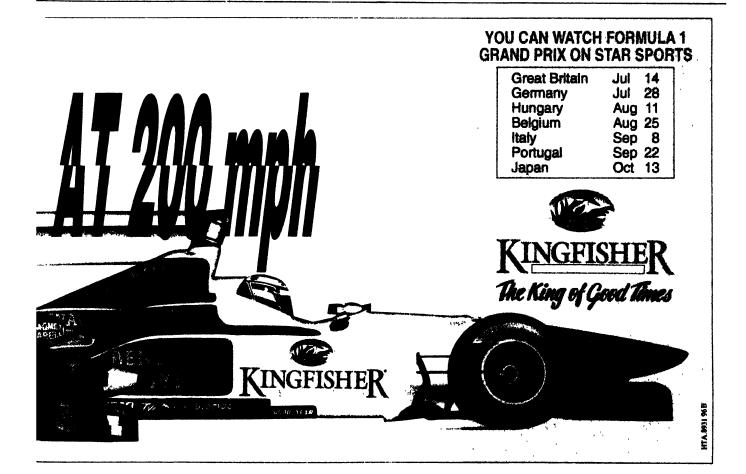
Mansher Singh is considered to be one of the best bets for a medal in the trap shooting section. The qualifying rounds had been tough and stringent. Now can he deliver the goods?

Asian Track and Field Championships at Jakarta. Inexplicably, after that, she did not take part in the SAF Games at Madras, where she was a sure bet for the 800m gold. She cited domestic problems and a virus and allergy. There was talk that she would quit athletics.

Now, thankfully, she is back. She has been selected as a member of the athletic contingent to Atlanta. Maybe, this Olympic Games will be a learning experience for her. She could rise to greater heights from here. She looks to be a scrious, determined runner although her rural background could cause her to laze out at international competitions.

We are sending only a six member squad to Atlanta. So Anand Natarajan has not found a place in it, because of his poor performance in the domestic







meets. The discus thrower Shakti Singh and 400m runner Paramjit Singh could go, if they get govt. clearance. But they are not expected to do anything much. The 4x 100m women's relay team is also not expected to do much. They are probably a token presence, that's all.

But our athletes, especially the newer, younger ones noed international exposure desperately. Because it is only then that they will get an idea of what world class competition is all about. It will give them an idea of the stress, the pressure, the mental strength and fortitude that is required of them.

So, it is sad that the AAFI thinks fit to send Shiny and Usha and Bahadur to Atlanta Surely, they are not building for the future. These athletes are going to retire very soon. So what's the point of sending them?

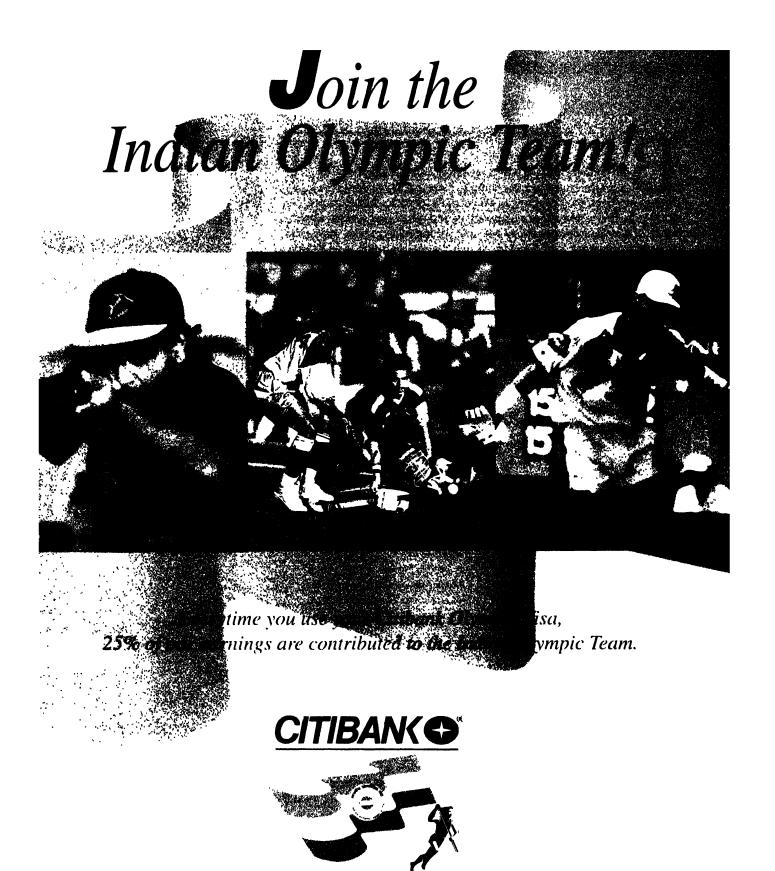
Well, all this sounds pessimistic. Maybe, there is a positive side to this also. Let's look at the other disciplines. There is hope that trap shooter Mansher Singh will do something in Atlanta. He is, after all, the first Indian trap shooter to qualify through the tough quota system introduced by the world body. He will be among 40-odd elite shooters aiming for a medal. Compared to Mansher Singh, Jaspal Rana does not have that much of a chance.

The Indian hockey team seems to have a better chance. If they are lucky, if they score some opportunistic goals, if they can convert their penalty corners, then, who knows, maybe, we might even win a medal. The good news for all the hockey playing

The Indian hockey team has raised hopes once again. Will Pargat Singh and his men be able to bring a smile to fellow Indians?

nations is that Shahbaz Ahmed has been dropped from the Pakistan team. Without Shahbaz's genius,it's going to be difficult for Pakistan to make an impact at the Olympics.

Limba Ram has qualified, along with Lalrem Sanga in archery. Limba Ram promised so much at the start of his career. But now, our hopes have been belied. What is it about our champions? It seems once they reach some sort of a standard, they sort of ease up. They don't practise like they used to. The fire is not there. They are content to maintain a national or maybe, an Asian level. There is no greater ambition than that. So, one is not sure that Limba Ram is going to make any sort of impact at this Olympics.



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When the lights go out, Carl stands up. Lewis is going for his fourth consecutive long jump gold in Atlanta

TA S!

A who's who of the possible medal winners at Atlanta

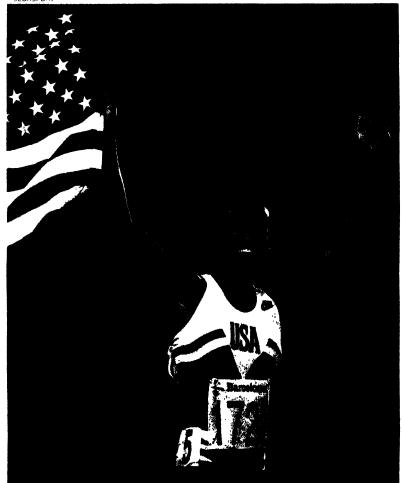
BY UDAY K.CHAKRABORTY

N cinder tracks, on grassy fields, on rivers and roads, in marshes and swamps, 10,000 men and women from more than 170 nations around the globe are training for one brief single, shining moment: a few minutes on the winners podium at the XXVI Olympics in Atlanta.

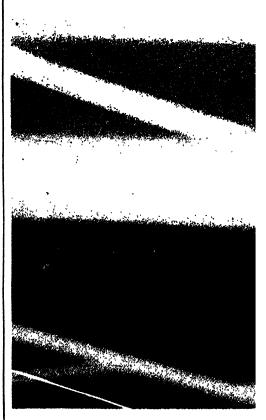
A crowd of familiar track and field stars will be present but also a group of fresh ones will be there in the Centenary Games, at the peak of their capabilities and at the height of their dreams.

Famous legends like Sergei Bubka, Carl Lewis, Jan Zelezny, Gwen Torrence, Merlene Ottey, Stefka Kostadinova and Jackie Joyner Kersee will be there to show their genius for, perhaps one last time. On the other hand the

Jackie Joyner Kersee: the greatest female athlete of all time will be hoping to retire with a gold







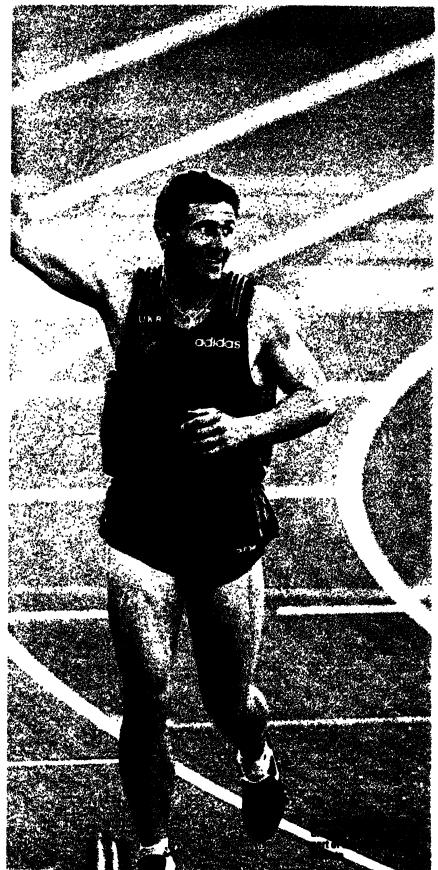
bursting speed of Donovan Bailey, the explosive excellence of Michael Johnson, the leap of faith from Ivan Pedreso, the hitherto unbroken run of Haile Gabreselassie, and a dream run by Noureddine Morcelli may herald the dawn of a new age.



Here are some close-ups of some of the Olympic lavourites—some known and some not so known.

Canada's Donovan Baily, an immigrant from the Caribbean, will try to do what another Canadian immigrant, Ben Johnson, tailed to do—win a fair gold in the 100m sprint, the most prestigious of all Olympic events. With his steady progress in the global athletics circuit, Bailey is expected to lead the pack in a star studded field which comprises of a number of formidable sprint champions

Will Canada's Donovan Bailey be able to emulate his world championship 100 metres victory once again at Atlanta?



including the defending champion, Linford Christie (UK). It will be a tight race no doubt, but will it be a memorable one?

In the longer sprints like the 200m and 400m, there seems to be hardly anyone who can match the athletic genius and peak form of Michael Johnson (USA). Running with an authority and possessing an aura unmatched by probably any athlete since Alberto Juantorena, 20 years ago, Johnson has managed to smash the longest standing athletic world record, the 200 metres, into oblivion. He is now the only male sprinter to win both these events at a World Athletic Championship (in Sweden, last summer). Johnson is such a favourite that the athletics time table at Atlanta has recently been amended to allow him to attempt a rare 'double'.

Noureddine Morceli of Algeria has remained unbeaten in the 1500m since his disappointing run at the last Olympics in Barcelona. But that was an unexpected lapse. Morceli has completed a hat-trick of 1500m world titles, producing a masterly display of tactics and stamina. What gives the 27-year-old, soft spoken metric miler an exalted status is the way he decimates the opposition in the event, because of his exceptional talent and form, no track and field pundit looks beyond him for the gold in Atlanta.

In the longer distances, Ethiopian runner, Haile Gebrselassie has looked little short of superhuman over the last one year. Last summer, he retained his 10,000m title at the Goteborg, Sweden and was undefeated in races at four different distances, setting world record times in three of them. His time of 12:44:39 for the 5,000m bettered the previou record by the biggest margin (10.9 sec) in 63 years. This winter, Gebrselassie competed indoors for the first time and quickly set work records in the 3,000m and 5,000m, by stupendous margins. He talks of running the 5,000m and 10,000m at Atlanta and looks a dead certain favourite in both. Gebrselassie's only competition may come from Kenyan Paul Targat in the 10,000m, and Kenyan Ismael Kirui and Moroccan Khalid Boulami ii 5.000m.

These are all predictions. You want a certain victor? Try Sergei Bubka, the Ukrainian pole-vaulter who has changed the very definition of the sport: sky walking could be a good name. All other vaulters are just below his wave length. Bubka toys with the



opposition, while at the same time he tries to defy time and space. The Ukranian has already broken the world record 40 times in the last nine years and won gold in Seoul and a bronze in Barcelona, thanks to a gross miscalculation he made by opting for a more formidable height while on his second jump itself. Bubka is currently in perfect form and won his fifth consecutive world title. It will be fun watching him trying to touch the skies in Atlanta.

While Bubka is a certainty in the pole vault, it would be fair to try and avoid making a prediction in the men's long jump. This event might turn out to be an epic battle between the legendary Carl Lewis, who is going for his fourth consecutive Olympic gold in the event, his compatriot Mike Powell and the talented Cuban Ivan Pedreso. Except for a minor blip in his long jump career profile, when Powell beat him to the gold as well as the world record, Lewis has been a virtual certainty each time he has competed in the event. Lewis, as mentioned earlier, won the long jump in the last three consecutive Olympics, an amazing feat for even a very talented athlete. But now, both Lewis and Powell are facing a new challenge: it comes from the Cuban Ivan Pedroso, Irrespective of the rivalry, the intense competition can produce an amazing result, maybe even a world record. Like when Bob Beamon's long standing long jump record, set in the Mexico Olympics (1968) took a tumble when Powell and Lewis pushed theniselves to the limit at the Tokyo World Athletic Championships in 1991. Powell created the new world record of 8 95m. Pedroso, whose federation is fighting to get his mark of 8.96m set in Italy in June 1995 as the new world record, beat Powell one month after the world athletic championships in Sweden.

The javelin throw is likely to be a replay of Barcelona. Defending champion and favourite Jan Zelezny of the Czech republic, will fight it out with Steve Backley of the UK. Zelezny missed the gold in Seoul, but only just. Then in Barcelona he fulfilled his dream, when Backley got the silver. Both these competitors are in the habit of breaking each other's records. Though it would be prudent to mention that Zelezny has a definite edge over Backley.

In the women's events, however, there are a few sure favourites, as some veterans avoided a few international events, preferring, instead, to assess the competition Cuba's Ana Fidelia Quirot will be the toast of the Games , Her's is a story of guts and courage against all odds



from outside.

Based on talent and current form, the experts have picked up at least one overwhelming favourite—Gwen Torrence (USA) in the 100m sprint. Torrence was also a favourite at Barcelona, but lost unexpectedly getting the silver instead. Torrence made amends by winning the 200m instead. In Atlanta, there will hardly be any challenge to her superiority in the 100m. In the 200m, however, Torrence could expect stiff competition from Italian based Jamaican, Merlene Ottey. Ottey's credentials as a top class sprinter are beyond criticism. Now in the twilight of her athletics career, Ottey has won many world championships but only silver and bronze in the Olympics. At 35, she has become a roving ambassador for Jamaica. Both these sprinters are willing to give whatever it takes to make the 200m sprint a classic duel.

Atlanta will also see a storybook comeback for Cuban star Ana Quirot. The talented Cuban runner won a bronze in Barcelona. But, just before and after that she amazed everyone by winning both the 400m and 800m races. In 1993, Quirot narrowly survived a domestic accident when she was severely burnt. The gutsy lady, however, bounced back in the world championships in Sweden last year, winning the 800m. Today, Quirot possesses more than, what it takes to be a champion. Her flowing strides, a sound tactical sense, and power down the home straight make her a formidable runner. Atlanta probably would be her last Olympics, and you can be sure she will be going for gold.

One will also see such established stars as Stełka Kostadinova of Bulgaria, who won many championships but had to be content with a silver in the Olympics. In Atlanta, with her German nemesis Heike Henkel retired, Kostadinova is expected to fulfil her ultimate dream in her last Olympics.

Other ageing stars, in their mid- 30s but never to be ignored, like Jackie Joyner Kersee and Florence Griffith Joyner of the USA and Heike Dreschler of Germany—may find age finally catching up with them. But that is more than enough reason for one last fling with fame.

And, while we are on the last legs of our predictions, let us not forget that there will be many upsets, created by unknown athletes who will burst on the international scene from simply nowhere. Remember Nawal El Moutawakel, she won the women's 400m





hurdles at the Los Angeles Games—the first gold medal ever won by a Moroccan athlete. Or Houssein Ahmed Saleh of Djibouti, the first and only Olympic medalist for his country, who got a bronze in the marathon in Seoul.

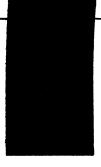
Inside every one of these athletes participating in the Atlanta Olympics this month there is at work a magnificent alchemy of mind and body. To realise their dreams, each of them have spent and sacrificed bucketfulls of blood, sweat and tears, they have spent their whole life training in a single minded dedication towards one goal: an Olympic medal

PHOTOGRAPHS PROFESSIONAL SPORT

Top:

Morcelli will be hoping to reassert his superiority in the 1,500 metres

Jan Zelezny has got more than a good chance to win the javelin gold



BY WILLIAM RHODES

still remember that day in August '95, like it was yesterday. It was a pleasant day in

Gothenburg, the sun was setting, there were a few thousand spectators and there, right in front of me, was history in the making. Jonathan Edwards, clad in a blue vest and shorts, baby-faced, with a modest physique, started his run.

He started with a 'one-two-three' movement. He began to run faster and faster. Till, he was really sprinting, as he approached the jump-off mark. Then there was a hop, a step and then Jonathan Edwards was soaring into space. He landed with a grunt on the sand. He stood up and looked backwards. On his face there was a realisation that he had done something significant. That, of course, would be the understatement of the year.

Jonathan Edwards had smashed the world record in the triple jump. And he smashed it in a most spectacular way. He became the first man to cross 18m and 60 feet. A month earlier, he had broken the ten year world record set by American Willie Banks in Salamanca in Spain. At that time, he had jumped 17.98m.



JONATHAN SEAGULL

His name is Jonathan Edwards. His pet event is the triple jump. Meet the first man to fly without wings



But this was a different level altogether. The first jump was measured at 18.16m. The second jump was even better: 18.29m. It was one of the greatest achievements of the modern era. A new superstar was born. After the 1995 season was over, Edwards was inundated with awards. He was named track and field's Athlete Of The Year. The competition he knocked off, to get the award, boasted of the likes of Michael Johnson (who had no mean season

Jonathan Edwards is exultant moments after his world record breaking leap at the World Athletics championships at Gothenburg last year

himself,) Haile Gebreselassie of Ethiopia (who had set a 10,000m world record) and Noureddine Morceli of Algeria. The BBC named him the Sports Personality Of The Year. Suddenly, overnight, he had become a top-flight celebrity, the most famous athlete in Britain.

Jonathan Edwards is a simple man, with a gamine charm. I met him recently in Newcastle, where he lives with his wife Alison and two children. He is a man who has been singularly unaffected by all the media hype and the fame. "I am just a regular ordinary guy," he says simply, "married with two kids, who happens to jump a long way into a sand pit." He is a man who is also genuinely liked by other athletes. "It's a bit of a cliche to call someone 'nice' but Jonathan is truly a ray of light in athletics," says Sebastian Coe, currently a Member of Parliament. Added British heptathlete, Denise Lewis, "Track is an incredibly bitchy sport but no one criticises Jonathan. And who could?" Lastly, this is what Mike Conley, the gold medallist in the triple jump in the '92 Barcelona Olympics, said, "I can't bring myself to get mad at Jonathan. I can only get mad at what he jumped."

And yet, there has to be steel and determination underneath that soft look. Think of this: his career has not been roses all the way. In '92, at Barcelona, he was expected to do well. He had been training for years before that, hoping to make some sort of an impact at Barcelona. It was a foregone conclusion that he would make it to the final. The question was whether he would land up on the winner's podium or not. His brother Tim and his wife and Jonathan's wife Alison were all there to watch him jump. Incredibly, he failed to reach the final.

It was a time of terrible despair for him. He rang up his mother for consolation. He found that he could not speak. He was choked with sorrow. He wondered whether he should continue with his athletics career. And it was from these depths that he raised himself up, only to be shattered a year later, by a debilitating battle with the epstein-barr virus which causes nononucleosis. The

Edwards takes a walk around the track with a British flag, soaking in the appleuse from the growd

result: his 1994 season went up in smoke.

During those long months of convalescence, as he struggled against despair once again, he began to watch numerous triple jump videos. In one of them, he noticed an arm movement of former world record holder Willie Banks, which he thought that he would incorporate into his own technique. It was a small change, but it was deeply significant. The next season, was the 1995 season that send him into immortality.

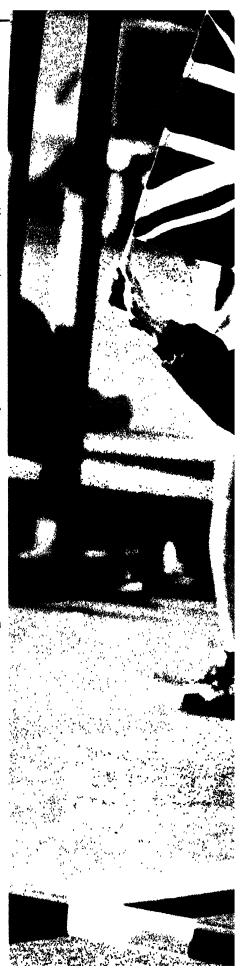
What is it about Jonathan Edwards that makes him so invincible?

After all, he does not have the muscular body to get so much of strength from the ground, to push himself up. His training partners make fun of his thin legs calling them 'women's legs'. He has good speed but then there are so many other triple jumpers who also blaze down the runway. Mike Conley's name comes to mind.

Experts, after studying his videos, have come to this conclusion: he is perhaps the only triple jumper, who does not pause when his foot hits the ground. Instead, he just goes on and on, almost magically touching the ground. The other triple jumpers when they land on one foot, hesitate a wee bit before they set off again. That hesitation takes away distance at the end. Jonathan Edwards has this distinct advantage.

The triple jump is a very tough and quirky sport. The athlete jumps off with one foot, lands on the same foot, jumps again, lands on the opposite foot and jumps a third time into the sand. "It is the most physically destructive event in track and field," says Sebastian Coe, multiple gold medal winner. But it is a sport in which Jonathan Edwards has no problem in competiting.

Part of the reason could be his spirituality. He is the son of an Anglican minister. As a result, Christian values imbue his life. There was a time when he did not compete







Edwards surrounded by cameramen after his epoch-making leap. He is now surely one of the great athletes of the modern era

on Sundays because it was the Sabbath. This caused him to miss taking part in important championships finals held on a Sunday like the Tokyo World Athletics Championships in '93. But his increasing success in the sport has led him to change his mind. Nowadays, he does take part on finals held on a Sunday.

Christian virtues has also helped him to think of others even while he was on the pinnacle of success. Here's an example: after the second jump at the World Athletics championships at Gothenburg, he passed up his third, because he did not want that all the media surrounding him distract the concentration of Brian Wellman of Bermuda who was lined up for the next jump.

"It was amazing," Wellman recalls, "that in the midst of Jonathan shattering the world record, he had time to think about me." There was one good result through all this concern: Wellman won the silver medal.

Today, Jonathan Edwards will shrug with a shy smile when he is reminded of the Wellman incident. It is part and parcel of his sweet nature. But make no mistake, in Atlanta, he is one of the most favoured to win the

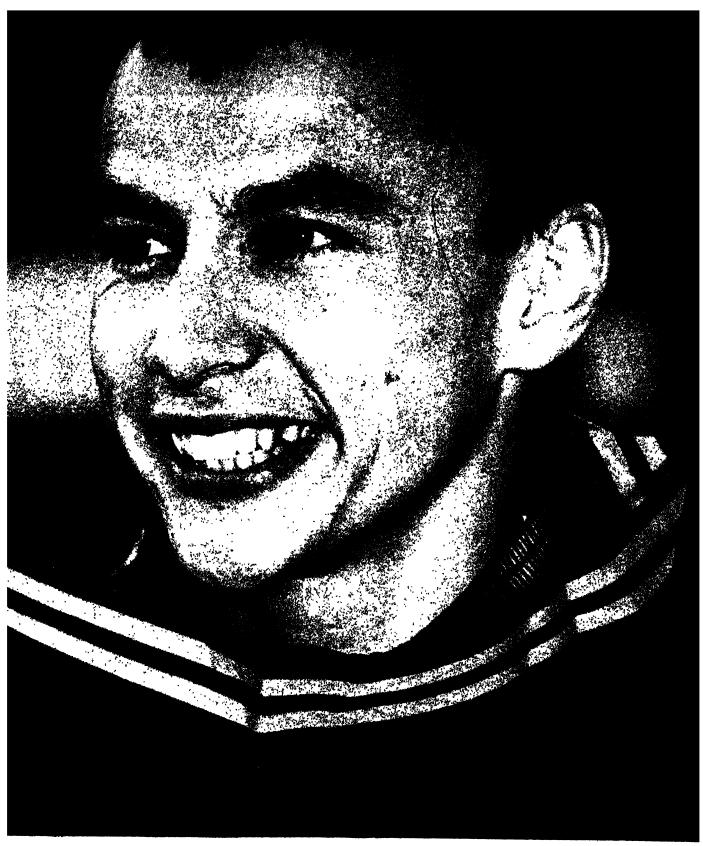


Edwards displays his triple jump gold medal to the world media

triple jump gold.

But when I asked about his prospects in the Atlanta Olympics, he

sounded nervous: "Psychologically, I don't feel wonderful. It's up and down. But it's important to build up confidence for Atlanta. I have never had 'world record holder' and 'world



champion' hanging around my neck like this. It's a new experience."

Experts predict that Jonathan
Edwards simply has no competition. I
mean, there is no triple jumper at

present who can approach his world records, let alone, beat them.
Although Edwards says that he does not look at the competition at all.
"When I go out to compete, my

attitude is to be the best I can," he told me, "not that I must beat x, y or z."

The only person Edwards can beat at Atlanta is himself. Any takers against this prediction?

Triumphof





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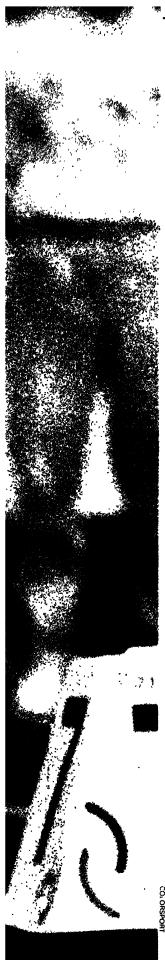
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DENNIS... THE MENACE

Sprinter DENNIS MITCHELL has announced his plans for Atlanta: the 100 metres gold

ENNIS MITCHELL was in a good mood. The 100m race at the Olympic Trials were just over. He had emerged the winner, defeating the likes of Leroy Burrell, Mike Marsh, Jon Drummond and finally, the great Carl Lewis. It was a defining moment for him. For so long, he had played second fiddle to the leading sprinters of the US athletic team. Now here he was, at the forefront, winning the 100m in style. His time: 9.92 secs. This matched the fastest time in the world this year. And he set another milestone: he became the first American ever to qualify for the 100m in three successive Olympics. Finally, it was also a defining moment for him that he had beaten Carl Lewis.

At Atlanta, during the Trials, it was Lewis' behaviour that charmed and thrilled him. The great athlete came up to Mitchell and spoke in a way that he had not spoken to Mitchell for years. "Carl said, 'Dennis, it's been a long time.' He said that he had a lot of respect for me.

"I've been running against him since 1987. He's never done that. It was like a blessing. I felt like Carl was giving me something. He was saying that I could go out and do whatever I wanted. It was an emotional moment. I shall remember this day until my career is over."

Lewis and Mitchell go a long way back. Lewis is four years his senior but they lived in neighbouring towns in New Jersey. They competed for rival schools but they trained at the same junior club run by Lewis' parents When Lewis won everything in 1984, Mitchell said, "I felt a part of it. I felt that it was somebody from my family who had achieved all this."

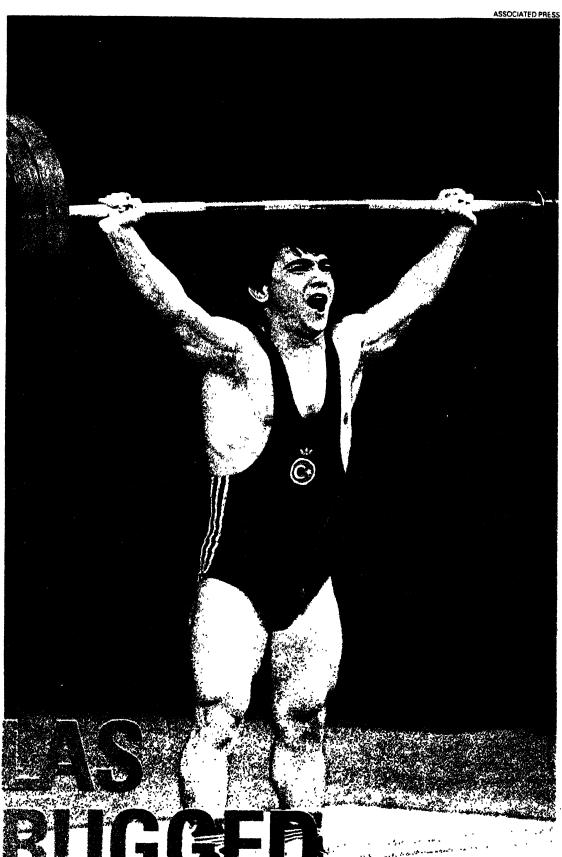
But when he also became a top class sprinter, when he also started to compete with Lewis, when he also became a rival, the carefully constructed childhood friendship slowly eroded into rivalry. It didn't help matters for Mitchell that he perpetually lost to Lewis in the sprints. When Lewis failed to win, it was Leroy Burrell or Mike Marsh who won the event. Mitchell seemed doomed to always come in second or third. His track record proves it: He won the bronze medal in the '92 Olympic Games, the '91 and '93 World Championships. When he didn't come in third, he used to end up fourth. Dennis Mitchell seemed a world class sprinter who somehow didn't have the luck or maybe, the fire to win races. People did not pay much attention to him.

Mitchell thought that in order to change his luck, maybe, he should change his colours. He began to wear a green suit (courtesy his sponsors, Mizuno). People began to call him 'The Green Machine'. When he won some races, sportswriters used to call him, with their tongues sometimes near their cheeks, as 'The Lean, Mean, Green Machine'.

"I created this personality on the track,"
Mitchell explains, "something that people
would notice. Superheroes always make
people sit up and take notice. Look at Batman.
Look at Superman. They made heroes of
themselves. That's what I want to be."

Perhaps Mitchell's time to become a hero has come. He is running well, he is in top form. He feels confident that he can beat the Burrells and the Marshes again. But there are other strong competitors. There's Ato Boldon, who also ran a 9.92 this year. There's Frankie Fredericks of Namibia, who is in fine fettle. World champion Donovan Bailey has clocked 9.98sec this year. And one should not forget the veteran Linford Christie, who might just spring a surprise or two.

Does Mitchell have the speed to make his rivals turn green with envy? ●



THE PROPERTY OF

28

Turkey's Naim Suleymanoglu may be forced to admit, albeit in all humility, that he might win his third consecutive weightlifting gold in Atlanta

BY K.O. JACOB

"I want to be like Arnold Schwarzenegger. I want to be in the movies. And I want to marry a Kennedy."

HIS statement did not evolve from the lips of another starstruck admirer of the former Mr.
Universe who wanted to emulate his hero's rather colourful life. It came from a 4' 11" man who stood his stature after his first meeting with the movie star in New York a couple of months ago. And Naim Suleymanoglu is a man who can afford to be on par with his idol.

When he said that he wanted to be in the movies, it was just said matter of factly—it was just another venture that Suleymanoglu wanted to undertake. He is not going to the big, bad world of films for the glamour or the money that is on offer there. Going by the fact that Sulemanoglu is the most eligible bachelor in the whole of Turkey, that he owns about ten apartments in there, walks around with a body guard, is part of all the official parties that the Turkish government holds, and is courted by the biggest names in Turkey is proof enough of the lifestyle that Sulemanoglu presently leads. In short, Suleymanoglu is Turkey's most favourite son and his country's most recognised sportsman.

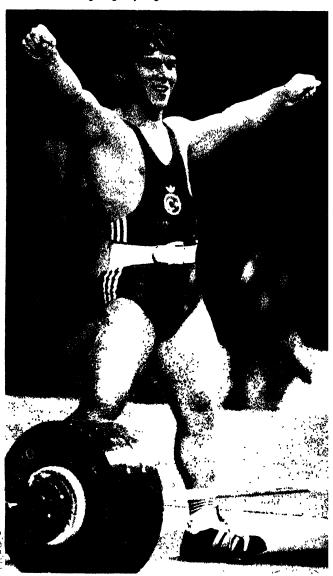
The fruits of success certainly did not come easy for this son of a former truck driver and zinc miner in the mountains of southern Bulgaria. Being born into a Turkish minority did not help things either, because they were considered to be refugees from the Ottoman Empire. From a very young age, Suleymanoglu was taunted at by both boys and girls for his short stature and his bow shaped legs. It was these jeers, these taunts that made him look deep inside himself. He realised that his body posses: ed an incredible amount of strength and if channelled, this strength would one day lift him to heights that his peers would never even have dreamt of.

So instead of replying back to the taunts and ridicule. Suleymanoglu, at the tender age of 10, left his family

Suleymanoglu's tryst with destiny. He smashed six world and nine Games records in one day at Seoul to win his first Olympic gold medal and took refuge in a sports school to develop his talent, and if possible win some medals in weightlifting. He worked hard, pushed his body to limits that he had never believed existed, and very soon started winning all the competitions that he was participating in.

Suleymanoglu's height, or the lack of it, gave his opponents the impression that this guy couldn't lift very heavy weights. It was an illusion that he loved to nurse, lulling his opponents into a sense of false

Winning has become more of a habit to Suleymanoglu and here he exults after winning the gold yet again at Barcelona





security...till it was his chance to lift the weights. And then the inevitable used to happen, Suleymanoglu always managed to lift at least a couple of extra pounds than his opponents.

In just about five years since Suleymanoglu had left his home he had already accomplished his goal. He became the best in his business and his baffled opponents just could not figure out any method to stop him wresting away the medals and records that they thought were rightfully theirs. At the age of 15, Suleymanoglu had become the world record holder: a feat that was unheard of in his sport. Another year had barely gone by, when he became only the second man in history to lift iron three times his body weight. This was in 1983, and Suleymanoglu yearned for the one medal and record that was not there in his curriculam vitae, the Olympic gold medal and the Olympic record. 1984 would be an Olympic year and it was at Los Angeles where he thought that he would earn the ultimate glory.

But fate had other plans.

The Communist Bloc, under orders from Moscow

If Turkey has a cause to campaign for, Suleymanoglu was there to champion it. His T-shirt at Barcelona announces to the world Turkey's bid for the 2000 Games which eventually went to Sydney

decided on a reprisal boycott of the L.A Games and so, the Bulgarians did not take the flight to Los Angeles. Suleymanoglu's Olympic dream was formed, and died in his mind. To make matters worse for him personally, the Bulgarian authorities decided that he should adopt a new and more clear cut identity: which is Bulgarian. They ended up forcing him to accept the name Naum Shalamanov. It was a policy decision that cost them dearly. Suleymanoglu openly resisted this suggestion and when matters came to a crunch, he managed to evade the net of the secret police and defected to Australia. Suleymanoglu's identity thus remained intact.

From Australia began the process of convincing the Turkish emmigration authorities that he actually belonged to their country and that they should accept him as one of their own. The Turkish authorities realising that they had a very talented individual wanting to come into their fold, welcomed him



champion weightlifter also found a political identity for himself. The fire of excellence was once again rekindled in Suleymanoglu and he set out in earnest to realise his hitherto unfulfilled dreams. Realising that Suleymanoglu was feeling very lonely in his new adopted country, Turkish authorities arranged for the extradition of his parents from Bulgaria and gave them citizenship status. The Suleymanoglu family was finally

united....and more importantly had found peace at last.

Realising that the Olympics was fast approaching again, Suleymanoglu decided that the best way to thank Turkey for all that they had done for him was to bring them the Olympic gold. For him there was another aspect, albeit a personal one. The Seoul Olympics would offer him the ideal platform to humiliate lifters from the Communist Bloc and through that, the system that he had grown to despise. Sure enough, Suleymanoglu kept his date with destiny.

Turkey wore a deserted look that day as people sat glued to their TV screens and saw their adopted son lift 755lbs in two categories. Suleymanoglu had succeeded

in all that he had yearned for over the years, and in the process, set six world and nine Games records in a single day!

No one in Turkish history—politician, prophet, warrior, or athlete had ever brought out the masses as Suleymanoglu did on his return from Seoul. Turkey's adopted son became the first athlete in Turkish history to receive the National Pride and Honour Medal. Overwhelmed by the support and love that the people of Turkey showered on him Suleymanoglu said, "This is a hobby of mine and I love it. But it is also true that the people of Turkey want me to win, and I do it for them." He also promised himself one thing, that he would give Turkey a repeat performance in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

Then disaster struck...

Trying to take his body through new frontiers in endurance, Suleymanoglu injured his back. The champion's psyche could not adjust to the change from the gymnasium to the massage tables. In a bout of depression Suleymanoglu announced his retirement and engaged in bouts of smoking and drinking, the former a vice that he always indulged in. But soon it dawned on him that there was a promise to himself that would remain unfulfilled if he stuck to his retirement plans—that of a repeat performance at Barcelona.

Suleymanoglu returned. Time they say is the best healer, and the time off had sufficiently healed his injury ravaged body. He set out once again in his quest for excellence and at Barcelona he did what was expected of him. He won the gold medal. For a republic founded from the rubble of the Ottoman Empire in 1923, Suleymanoglu's encore was a gift that the Turks accepted wholeheartedly. However, for Suleymanoglu there was still work to be done, more records to be broken.

Striving to attain weightlifting nirvana he continued to win medals and championships. Suleymanoglu now has 45 world records and 22 gold medals, including two Olympic Championships under his belt. On the 19th of July, Suleymanoglu will again be there at the Opening Ceremony at Atlanta hoping that he can manage yet another gold. It will be another first to his credit, the only time anyone has won three successive gold medals in his sport.

Way back in the Sixties, the legendary Jim Morrison once asked, "Have you lived a life that you can base a movie on?" Naim Suleymanoglu certainly has, and it is his own life that he wants to portray on celluloid. That of his exodus from an oppressed minority in Bulgaria to a national hero in Turkey.

Now we know why Suleymanoglu wants to be in the movies.

INTHE LINE OF FIRE!

Is the present Indian hockey team good enough to win a medal at Atlanta?



BY T.S. VENKATARAMAN

NDIA'S hockey team went to Ipoh with a mission. Their brief was very simple: use the Sultan Azlan Shah tournament as a runup to the Olympic Games and then in Atlanta recapture the glorious past of Indian hockey. Yet Indian hockey's cup of woes brimmed over as they fell to Britain 1-2 for their third successive defeat in the six nation tournament in May, a mere three months before the Summer Games.

For the Indians, it was the same old story of missed chances after having played well and after having given the impression that they were better in different departments of the game. As a result India languished at the bottom of the league table without a point and just one goal from three games to show for their efforts. Very little can be said in complimentary terms about the conduct of this important pre-Olympic exercise.

Preparation for the Olympics. This is the mantra on the lips of every coach, player and official, as the time drew tantalizingly drew closer towards the greatest sports extravaganza set to take off on July 19 at Atlanta. But whether the preparatory effort was worth the trouble for the six teams that took part in the United States Field Hockey

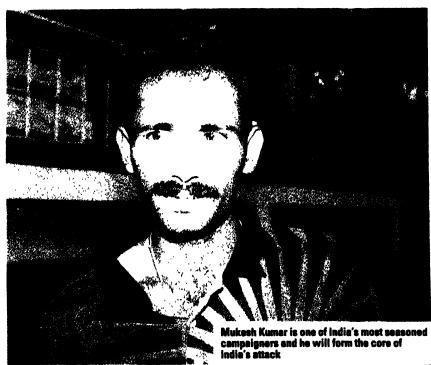
Pargat Singh: the only Indian hockey captain to lead a squad in two successive Olympics. Whether he can motivate the team to a medal winning performance remains to be seen



Association tournament last month also is debatable. In many ways it was a non-event. But for the grand finale provided by the two Asian giants, India and Pakistan, the six nation tournament at the Olympic venue had not provided much adrenalin.

True the much needed match exposure at the international level had begun after the change of guard at the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF). Headed by K.P.S.Gill, the new IHF set-up also brought sponsorship into the hitherto neglected sport. But it is high time Indian hockey paused to take stock of what has been achieved during the hectic period gone by.

It may be recalled India finished no more than fifth at the Champions Trophy at Berlin. And now to claim that India is ready for a medal hunt at Atlanta is rather startling, to say the least. Both the captain, Pargat Singh, and the chief coach, Cedric





Dhenraj Pillai is India's most well known forward in international circles and this time opposing defenders will surely have their tactics charted out to stop him

D'Souza—they seem to be made for each other—have gone on record saying that their "probing mission" has been successful.

That probing mission was the extended trip through England, Germany and the U.S. In England there was a one-off Test and a short camp before two tournaments in Hamburg and Atlanta. Both D'Souza and Pargat feel that this tour had given them an idea of the strengths and weaknesses of the Indian team. They also imply that the poor performance in the four-nation Panasonic tournament in Hamburg was more a result of their own making, rather than the disaster it was.

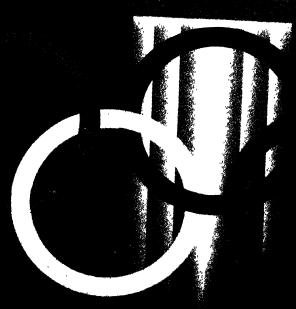
D'Souza said that the trip-with particular reference to the matches in Hamburg—was for experimentation, to test out new talent and skills. The 1-3 defeat by Germany was a case in point. According to the Indian brains trust the defeat was caused because of the absence of such stars as Pargat Singh, Mukesh Kumar and Dhanraj Pillai in the starting line-up. That is nothing more than a facile explanation for a defeat. But what happened against Spain, a team which does not rank among the bigwigs of the game? Indeed Spain's main claim to glory is their ability to convert short corners.

Consider also another tall claim by the Indian think-tank which stresses that India showed the ability and will to fight back. By way of evidence, they presented the superb rally mounted against bitter rivals Pakistan that fetched India a most creditable and worthy 2-2 draw. Not to forget either that the splendid rally came against a Pakistani side playing without their master ball player and schemer Shahbaz Ahmed. But considering that India did defeat Shabaz's Pakistan 5-2 to win the SAF Games gold medal does not speak much about the recent draw against our neighbour.

Another very ironical fact presented itself in the Hamburg tournament: India had taken a lead in all their matches before they

Sports





ATLANTA: 96

CENTENARY
OLYMPIC
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YEAR	VENUE	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	
1896	(Athens)				
USA		9	6	1	
Greece		1	3	7	
Germany		_	1	_	
1900	(Paris)				
USA		15	13	10	
France		-	4	2	
Great Brit		4	2	1	
1904	(St. Louis)				
USA		22	22	21	
GBR/Irela	nd	1	1	_	
Germany			-	1	
1908	(London)				
USA		16	10	8	
Great Britain		6	5	3	
Canada		1	1	4	
1912	(Stockholm)				
USA		16	13	13	
Sweden		3	5	6	
Finland		6	4	3	
1920	(Antwerp)				
USA		9	12	8	
Sweden		1	3	10	
Finland		9	4	3	
i924	(Paris)				
USA		12	10	10	
Finland		10	5	2	
Great Brita		3	3	5	
1928 USA	(Amsterdam)	_			
Finland		9	8	8	
		5	5	4	
Germany 1932	(1 oc A == -1)	1	2	6	
USA	(Los Angeles)	10	••	_	
Germany		16	13	6	
Finland		3	2	3	
1936	(Berlin)	3	4	4	
USA	(Deriiii)	14	7		
Germany		5	4	4	
Finland		3	5	7 2	
1948	(London)	J	IJ	2	
USA	1=0.1100117	12	5	10	
Sweden		5	3	5	
Great Brita	un & NI	_	6	1	
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MEDALS TALLY

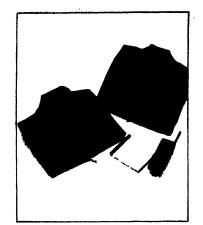
YEAR	VENUE	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZI
1952	(Helsinki)			
USA	•	15	10	6
USSR		2	8	7
Great B	ritain & NI	-	i	À
1956	(Melbourne)		-	•
USA		16	10	5
USSR		5	7	10
Australia	3	4	2	6
1960	(Rome)		_	_
USSR		11	5	5
USA		12	8	6
FRG		2	4	· -
1984	(Tokyo)		•	
USA	• .	14	7	3
USSR		5	2	11
Great Br	itain & NI	4	7	1
1968	(Mexico)		•	•
USA		15	6	7
USSR		3	2	8
GDR		2	3	Ĭ
1972	(Munich)		_	-
USA		6	8	8
GDR		8	7	5
USSR		9	7	ī
1976	(Montreal)			•
GDR		11	7	9
USA		6	8	8
USSR		4	4	10
1980	(Moscow)			
USSR		15	14	12
GDR		11	8	10
	itain & NI	4	2	14 /
1984	(Los Angeles)			
UŞA		16	15	9
	tain & NI	3	7	. 6
FRG	•	4	2	5
1988	(Seoul)			
USSR		10	6	10
USA		13	7	6
GDR		6	11	10
1992	(Barcelona)			
Unified T		45	38	29
United St		37	34	37
Germany	,	33	21	28











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Duckback's windcheaters, made of PU Coated nylon fabrics, are very dependable and fashionable indeed.

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July 19 – Aug 4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Ceremonies	•							
Archery								
Athletics			<u> </u>					•
Badminton		<u> </u>	1				•	•
Baseball		•		•	•	•	•	
Basketball		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
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Shooting		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Softball	-		•	•	•	•	•	•
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Synchronised Swimming		1						T
Water Polo		•	•		•	•		•
Table Tennis					•	•		•
Tennis					•	•	•	•
Beach Volleyball					•	•	•	
Indoor Volleyball		•		•		•	•	
Weightlifting						•	 	
Wrestling								
Yachting		 						





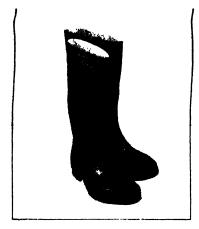
VIVAT The Travelstyle School Bag range with the international look is made of the finest synthetic fabric.



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Mascots have always played a vital role in defining the ethos of the Olympic Games. They have also functioned as a major identification symbol for different Olympics. Here are a few memorable ones.



MOSCOW

Misha, the cheery, mischievious, furry bear, and the choice of 40,000 televiewers was the mascot for the Games.







LOS ANGELES

Bald eagle, the national bird of USA, was the mascot for the Games. Named **Sam**, it was a take-off on 'Uncle Sam', the nickname for Americans the world over.



SEOUL

The prancing tiger **Hoduri** was the mascot for the Games and it projected South Korea as the new aggressive player in the world economy.



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BARCELONA

Cubist cartoon dog **Cobi** the mascot, was portrayed as a little sad and depressed and was not represented as a super athlete.





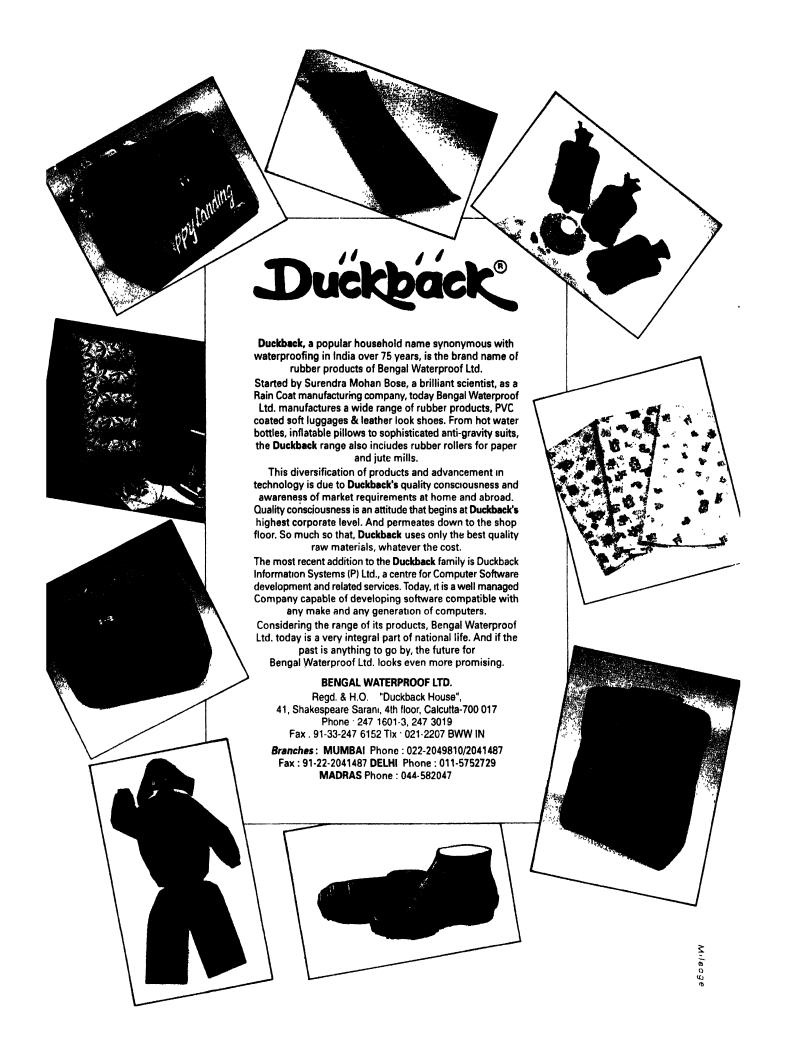


ATLANTA

Izzy has been decided as the mascot for the Games and is rapidly soaring up the popularity charts.









squandered away their supremacy. That aspect apart, there is another equally important one. India not only failed to beat any of the big three—Germany, Australia and Pakistan—they encountered on this tour, they lost to Spain and were held by Britain. The Spanish team certainly did not play exceptional hockey to beat India, in fact their game was rather mediocre. Against the British too, it was the standard of Indian hockey that had fallen. In that particular game, the British just played to their capabilities.

In view of the rather lacklustre performances by the Indian hockey team in the recent past, it is quite strange that the Indian hockey brains-trust is happy with the present state of affairs in the game that they

manage. Maybe, they are right in saying that they did not want to repeat the mistakes of the pre-Olympic tour before the Barcelona Games. India then had performed superbly both in England and in Europe only to be brought crashing down in Barcelona. If overconfidence breeds complacency as was the case in Barcelona, then one wonders what could be the result of a poor morale?

One is not inclined to buy the theory that the Indian hockey team would peak at the right opportunity, in this case at Atlanta, and it is quite doubtful if India is ready to take on all opposition and buy their place under the sun. Regardless, the time and occasion for shuffling and chopping is over. It is better to have a time tested team that has proved its capability to

Cedric D'Souza the Indian hockey coach certainly has a tough job on his hands, but the rapport with his players stand him in good stead

win tournaments and bring glory to the nation.

When Pargat Singh (who incidentally is the only Indian to captain two successive Olympic squads) leads out his group of boys out on the turf on that fateful day they should realise two very important things. Firstly, that the collective hopes and dreams of 950 million Indians depends on the magic they weave with their sticks. Secondly, they should realise that it is high time they managed to salvage some of India's lost pride in a sport that incidentally happens to be the country's national game.

WINNERS AT

An overall look of the medal winners at the Barcelona Olympics

COMPILED BY SACO V.H STEPHEN

The names appear in the order of gold medal winners, silver medal winners and the bronze medal winners

Archery

Men's 70-metre individual Sebastien Flute, France; Chung Jae Hun, S. Korea; Simon Terry, Great Britain.

Men's Team - Spain; Finland; Great Britan.

Women's 70-Metre individual - Cho Youn Jeong, S. Korea; Kim Soo Nyung, S. Korea; Natalia Valeeva, Unified Team.

Women's Team - S. Korea; China; Unified Team.

Athletics Men

100m - Linford Christie, Great Britain; Frankie Fredericks, Namibia; Dennis M tchel, U.S.

200m - Mike Marsh, U.S.; Frankie Fredericks, Nambia; Michael Bates, U.S.

400m - Quincy Watts, U.S.; Steve Lewis, U.S.; Samson Kifur, Kenya.

800m - William Tanui, Kenya; Nixon Kiprotich, Kenya; Johnny Gray, U.S.

1,500m - Fermin Cacho Rulz, Spain; Rachid El-Basir, Morocco; Mohamed Ahmed Sulaiman, Qatar.

5,000m - Dieter Baumann, Germany; Paul Bitok, Kenya; Fita Bayisa, Ethiopia.

10,000m - Khakel Skah, Morocco;

Richard Chelimo, Kenya; Addis Abebe, Ethiopia.

110m Hurdies - Mark McKoy, Canada; Tony Dees, U.S.; Jack Pierce, U.S.

460m Hurdies - Kevin Young, U.S.; Winthrop Graham, Jamaica; Kriss

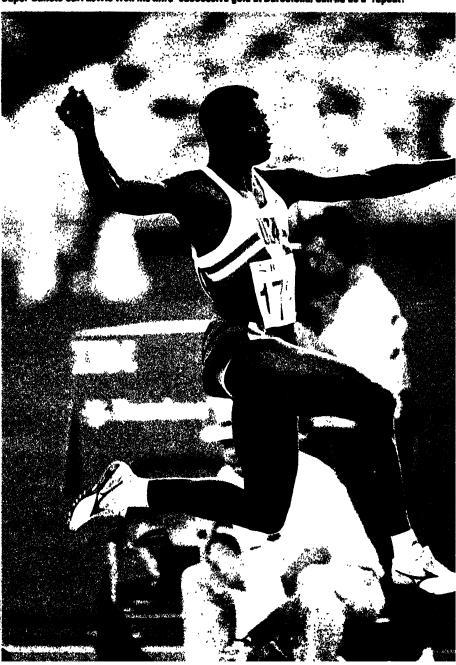
Akabusi, Great Britain.

4x100m Relay - U.S.; Nigeria; Cuba

4x490m Relay - U.S.; Cuba; Great Britain.

Shot Put - Michael Stuice, U.S.; James

Super athlete Carl Lewis won his third successive gold at Barcelona, Can be do a repeat?



BARCELONA

Doehring, U.S. Viacheslav Lykho, Unified Team.

Triple Jump - Mike Conley, U.S.; Charles Simpkins, U.S.; Frank Rutherford, U.S.

Javolin - Jan Zelezny, Czechoslovakia; Seppo Raty, Finland; Steve Backley, Great Britain.

High Jump - Javier Sotomayor, Cuba; Patrik Sjoeberg. Sweden; (tie) Artur Partyka, Poland, Timothy Forsythe, Australia, Hollis Conway, U.S.

Hammer Throw - Andrey Abduvaliyev. Unified Team; Igor Astapkovich, Unified Team; Igor Nikulin, Unified Team.

Long Jump - Carl Lewis, U.S.; Mike Powell, U.S. Joe Greene, U.S.

Pole Vault - Maksim Tarassov. Unified Team; Igor Trandenkov, Unified Team; Javier Garcia Chico, Spain.

Decathion - Robert Zmelik, Czechoslovakia; Antonio Penalver, Spain; Dave Johnson, U.S.

Discus - Romas Ubartas, Lithuania; Jurgen Schult, Germany; Roberto Moya, Cuba

29-Km Walk - Daniel Plaza Montero, Spain; Guillaume Leblanc, Canada; Giovannie de Benedictis, Italy.

.50-km Walk - Andrei Perlov, Unified Team; Cartos Mercenario Carbajal, Mexico; Ronald Weigel, Germany.

3,000m Steeplechase - Mathew Birir, Kenya; Patrick Sang, Kenya; William Mutwol; Kenya.

Marathon - Hwang Young-Cho, S. Korea; Koitchi Morishita, Japan; Stephan Freigang, Germany.

Women

160m - Gail Devers, U.S.; Juliet Cuthbert, Jamaica; Irina Privalova, Unified Team.

200m - Gwen Torrance, U.S.; Juliet Cuthbert, Merlene Ottey, Jamaica.

400m - Marie-Jose Perec, France; Olga Bryzgina, Unified Team; Ximena Restrepo Gaviria, Colombia.

Elana Meyer, South Africa; Lynn Jennings, U.S.

160m Hurdies - Paraskevi Patoulido Greece; LaVonna Martin, U.S.; Yordanka Donkova, Bulgeria.

400m Hurdies - Sally Gunnell, Great Britain; Sandra Farmer-Patrick, U.S. Janeene Vickers, U.S.

4x100m Relay - U.S.; United Team; Nigeria.



The victorious U.S 4x100m relay team at Bercelona

800mEllen van Langen, Netherlands; Lilla Nurudinova, Unified Team; Ana Quirot, Cuba

1,500m - Hassiba Boulmerka, Algeria; Lyudmila Rogacheva, Unified Team; Qu Yunxia, China.

3,000m - Yelina Romanova, United Team; Tatyana Dorovskikh, Unified Team; Angela Frances Chalmers, Canada.

10,000m - Derartu Tulu, Ethiopia;

4x100m Relay - Unified Team; U.S.; Great Britain.

Javelin - Silke Renk, Germany; Natalla Shikolenko, Unified Team; Karen Forkel, Germany.

Long Jump - Heike Drechsler, Germany; Inessa Kravets, Unified Team; Karen Forkel, Germany,

Long Jump - Heike Drechsler, Germany; Inessa Kravets, Unified Team; Jackie Joyner-Kersee, U.S. **High Jump -** Heike Henkel, Germany; Galina Astafei, Romania; Joanet Quintero, Cuba.

Shot Put - Svetlana Kriveleva, Unified Team; Huang Zhihong, China; Kathrin Neimke, Germany.

Heptathion - Jackie Joyner-Kersee, U.S.; Irina Belova, Unified Team; Sabine Braun, Germany.

10-km Walk - Chen Yueling, China; Yelina Nikolaeva, Unified Team; Li Chunxiu, China.

Discus - Maritza Marten Garcia, Cuba; Tzvetanka Mintcheva Khristova, Bulgaria; Daniela Costain, Australia.

Marathon - Valentina Yegorova, Unified Team; Yuko Arimori, Japan; Lorraine Moller, New Zealand.

Badminton Men

Men's Singles - Alan Budi Kusuma, Indonesia; Ardy Wiranata, Indonesia; (tie) Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen, Denmark & Hemawan Susanto, Indonesia.

Men's Doubles - Kim Moon Soo and Park Joo Bong, S. Korea; Eddy Hartono and Rudy Gunawan, Indonesia; (tie) Li Yongbo and Tian Bingul, China & Sidek Razig and Sidek Jalani, Malaysia.

Women

Women's Singles - Susi Susanti, Indonesia; Bang Soo Hyun, S. Korea; (tie) Huange Hue, China, & Tang Jiuhong, China.

Women's Doubles - Hwang Hye Young and Chung So-Young, S. Korea; Guan Weizhen and Nong Qunhua, China; (tie) Gill Young Ah and Shim Eun Jung. S. Korea. & Lin Yanfen and Yao Fen, China.

Baseball

Cuba; Taiwan; Japan.



Linford Christie celebrates his gold winning performance at Barcelona

Basketball

Mon - U.S.; Croatia; Lithuania.

Women - Cuba: China: U.S.

Boxing

106 Pounds - Rogelio Marcelo, Cuba; Daniel Bojnov, Bulgaria; (tie) Jan Quast, Germany & Roel Velasco, Phillippines.

112 Pounds - Su Choi Choi, N. Korea; Raul Gonzalez, Cuba; (tie) Timothy Austin, U.S. & Istvan Kovacs, Hungary.

119 Pounds - Joel Casamayor, Cuba; Wayne McCullough, Ireland; (tie) Hocine Soltani, Algeria & Ramazi Pallani, Unified Team.

132 Pounds - Oscar De La Hoya, U.S.;

Marco Rudolph, Germany; (tie) Hong Sung Sik, N. Korea & Namjil Bayarsakhan, Mongolia.

140 Pounds - Hector Vincent, Cuba; Mark Leduc, Canada; (tie) Jyn Kjall, Finland & Leonard Doroffel, Romania.

148 Pounds - Michael Carruth, Ireland; Juan Hemandez. Cuba; (tie) Anibal Acevedo, Santiago, Puerto Rico & Arkom Chenglal, Thailand.

157 Pounds - Juan Lemus, Cuba; Orhan Delibas, Netherlands; (tie) Gyorgy Mizsel, Hungary & Robin Reid, Great Britain.

165 Pounds - Areil Hemandez, Cuba; Chris Byrd. U.S. (tie) Chris Johnson, Canada & Lee Seung Bae, S. Korea.

179 Pounds - Torsten May, Germany; Rostislav Zeoultchnyl, Unified Team;



(tie) Zoitan Beres, Hungary & Wojciech Bantnik, Poland.

201 Pounds - Felix Savon, Cuba; David Izonritel, Nigeria; (tie) Arnold Van Der Lijde, Netherlands & David Tua, New Zealand.

Over 201 Pounds - Roberto Balado, Cuba; Richard Igbineghu, Nigeria; (tie) Brian Nielsen, Denmark & Svilen Roussinov, Bulgaria.

Canoe/Kayak Men

Single Kayak Slalom - Pierpaolo Ferrazzi, Italy; Sylvain Curinier, France; Jochen Lettmann, Germany.

Kayak 500m Singles - Mikko Yrjoe Kolehmainen, Finland; Zsolt Gyulay, Hungary; Knut Holmann, Norway.

Kayak 500m Doubles - Germany; Poland: Italy.

Kayak 1,000m Singles - Clint

Robinson, Australia; Knut Holmann, Norway; Greg Barton, U.S.

Kayak 1,000m Doubles - Germany; Sweden: Poland.

Kayak 1,000m Fours-Germany; Hungary; Australia.

Double Cance Statom-U.S. Czechoslovakia; France.

Canoe Sialom- Lukas Pollert, Czechoslovakia; Gareth Marriott, Great Britain; Jacky Aril, France.

Canes 500m Singles-Nikolai Boukhalov, Bulgaria; Mikhail Slivinski, Unified Team; Olaf Heukrodt, Germany

Canos 500m Doubles-Unified Team; Germany; Bulgaria.

Canoe 1,000m Singles-Nikolai Boukhalov, Bulgaria; Ivan Klementjevs, Latvia; Gyorgy Zala, Hungary.

Canoe 1,000m Doubles-Germany; Denmark; France.

Women

Kayak Slalom-Elisabeth Micheler, Germany; Danielle Anne Woodward, Australia; Dana Chladek, U.S.

Kayak 500m Singles-Birgit Schmidt, Germany; Rita Koban, Hungary; Izabelia Dylewska, Poland.

Kayak 500m Doubles-Germany; Sweden; Hungary.

Kayak 500m Fours-Hungary; Germany; Sweden.

Cycling\Men

Individual Road Race-Fabio Casartelli, Italy; Erik Dekker, Netherlands; Dainis Ozols, Latvia.

Sprint-Jens Fledler, Germany; Garry Neiwand, Australia, Curtis Harnett, Canada.

Individual Points Race-Giovanni Lombardi, Italy; Leon Van Bon, Netherlands: Cedric Mathy, Belgium.

4,000m Team Pursuit-Germany; Australia; Denmark.

4-km Individual Pursuit-Chris Boardman, Great Britain; Jens Lehmann, Germany; Gary Anderson, New Zeland.

1-km Time Trial-Jose Moreno, Spain; Shane Kelly, Australia; Erin Hartwell, U.S.

Road Race-Germany; Italy; France.

Women

Sprint-Irika Salumae, Estonia; Annet Neumann, Germany; Ingrid Haringa, Netherlands.

Individual Pursult-Petra Rossner, Germany; Kathryn Watt, Australia; Rebecca Twigg. U.S.

Individual Road Race-Kathryn Watt, Australia; Jeannie Longo-Ciprelli, France; Monique Knol, Netherlands.

Diving

Men's Platform-Sun Shuwei, China; Scott Donie, U.S.; Xiong Ni, China.

Men's Springboard-Mark Lenzi, U.S.; Tan Liangde, China; Dmitri Saoutine, Unified Team.

Women's Platform-Pu Mingzia, China; Yelina Mirochina, Unified team; Mary Ellen Clark, U.S.

Women's Springboard-Gao Min, China; Irina Lachko, Unified Team; Brita Pia Baldus, Germany,

Equestrianism

Individual 3-Day Event-Mathew Ryan, Australia; Herbert Biocker, Germany; Robert Tait, New Zealand.

Team-3-Day Event-Australia; New Zealand: Germany.

Individual Dressage-Nicole Uphoff, Germany: Isabelle Regina Werth, Germany: Klaus Balkenhol, Germany.

Team Dressage-Germany:

Netherlands: U.S.

individual Jamping- Ludger
Beerbaum, Germany; Piet
Ray-makers, Netherlands; Norman
Dello Joio, U.S.

Team Jumping-Netherlands; Austria; France.

Fencing Men

Individual Foll-Phillippe Ommes, France; Serguei Goloubitski, Unified Team; Elvis Gregory Gil, Cuba.

Toam Foil-Germany; Cuba; Poland.

Individual Sabre-Bence Szabo, Hungary: Marco Marin, Italy: Jean-Francois Lamour, France. Italy: Wang Huifeng, China; Tatiana Sadovskaia, Unified Team.

Team Foil-Italy; Germany; Romania.

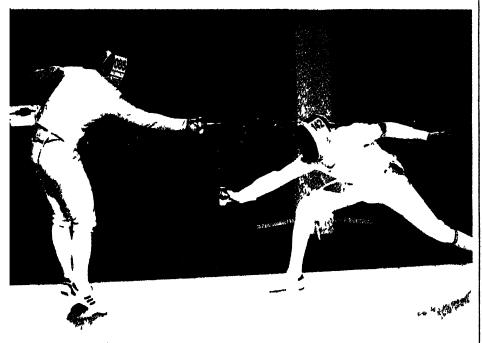
Gymnastics\Men

Floor Exercise-Li Xiaosahuang. China; (tie) Grigori Misutin, Unified Team & Yukio Iketani, Japan.

Horizontal Bar-Trent Dimas, U.S.; (tie) Andreas Wecker, Germany & Grigori Misutin, Unified Team.

Parailel Bars-Vitaly Scherbo, Unified Team; Li Jing China; (tie) Igor Korobichinski, Unified Team. Guo Linyao, China & Masayuki Matsunaga, Japan.

Pommel Horse-(tie) Vitaly Scherbo,



A fencing match in progress at the Barcelona Olympics

Team Sabre-Unified Team: Hungary; France.

Individual Epoc-Eric Srecki, France; Pavel Kolobkov, Unified-Team; Jean-Michel Henry, France.

Team Epec-Germany; Hungary; Unified Team.

Women

Individual Foil-Giovanna Trillini,

Unified Team, & Pae Gill Su. N Korea; Andreas Wecker, Germany.

Rings-Vitaly Scherbo, Unified team; Li Jing China; (tie) Andreas Wecker, Germany & Li Xiaosahuang. China.

Vault-Vitaly Scherbo, Unified team; Grigori Misutin, Unified Team; Yoo Ok Ryul, S. Korea

Individual Ali-round-Vitaly Scherbo, Unified Team; Grigori Misutin, Unified Team; China; Japan.

Women

Balance Beam-Tatiana Lisenko, Unified Team; (tie) Lu Li, China & Shannon Miller, U.S.

Floer Exercise-Lavinia Corina Milosovici, Romania; Henrietta Onodi, Hungary; (tie) Shannon Miller, U.S., Cristina Bontas, Romania & Tatiana Gutsu. Unified Team.

Uneven Bars-Lu Li, China; Tatlana Gutsu, Unified Team; Shannon Miller, U.S.

Vault-(tie) Henrietta Onodi, Hungary & Lavinia Corina Molosovici, Romania; Tatiana Lisenko, Unified Team.

All-round-Tatiana Gutsu, Unified Team; Shannon Miller, U.S.; Lavinia Corina Milosovici, Romania.

Team Artistic-Unified Team; Romania: U.S.

Hockey

Men-Germany; Australia; Pakistan.

Women-Spain; Germany; Great Britain.

Judo\Men

132 Pounds-Nazim Gousseinov, Unified Team; Yoon Hyun, S. Korea; (tie) Tadanori Koshino, Japan & Richard Tautmann, Germany.

143 Pounds-Regerio Sampaio Cardoso, Brazil; Josef Csak, Hungary; (tic) Udo Gunter Quelimaiz, Germany & Israel Hemandez Planas, Cuba.

157 Pounds-Toshihiko, Japan; Bertalan Hajtos, Hungary; (tie) Chung Hoon, S. Korea & Shay Oren Smadga, Israel.

172 Pounds-Hidehiko Yoshida, Japan; Jason Morris, U.S. (tie) Bertrand Damaisin, France & Kim Hyung Joo, S. Korea.

198 Pounds-Waldemar Legien, Poland; Pascal Tayol, France; (tie)

Hirotaka Okada, Japan, & Nicolas Gill, Canada.

209 Pounds-Antal Kovacs, Hungary; Raymond Stevens, Great Britain; (tie) Dmitri Sergeev, Unified Team & Theo Meijer, Netherlands.

Heavyweight-David Khakhaleichvili, Unified Team; Naoya Ogawa, Japan; (tie) David Douilet, France & Imre Csosz, Hungary.

Women

106 Pounds-Cecile Nowak, France; Ryoko Tamura, Japan; (tie) Hulya Senyurt, Turkey & Amarilis Savon, Cuba.

115 Pounds-Almudena Munoz Martinez, Spain; Moriko Mizoguch, Japan; (tie) Li Zhongyum, China & Sharon Rendie, Great Britain.

123 Pounds-Miriam Biasco Soto, Spain; Nicola Fairbrother, Great Britain; (tie) Chiyori Taleno, Japan & Driulis Gonzalez Cuba.

134 Pounds-Catherine Fieury, France; Yael Arad, Israel; (tie) Zhang Di, China & Yelina Petrova, Unified Team.

146 Pounds-Odalls Reve Jimenez, Cuba; Emanuela Plerantozzi, Italy; (tie) Kate Howey; Great Britain Heldi Rakels, Belgium.

159 Pounds-Kim Mi Jung. S. Korea; Yoko Tanabe, Japan; (tie) Irene De Kok, Netherlands and Laetitia Meignan, France.

Over 159 Pounds-Zhuang Xiaoyan, China; Estela Rodriguez Villaneuva, Cuba; (tie) Natalia Lupino, France & Yoko Sakaue, Japan.

Modern Pentathlon

Individual — Arkadiusz Skrzypaszek, Poland; Attila Mizser, Hungary; Eduard Zenovka, Unified Team.

Team — Poland: Unified Team; Italy.

Rowing Men

Single Sculls --- Thomas Lange,



Tames Daryni winner of the 400m medley in action at Barcelona

Germany; Vaclav Chalupa, Czechoslovakia; Kejetan Broniewski, Poland.

Double Scuils — Australia; Austria; Netherlands.

Coxless Pairs — Great Britain; Germany: Slovenia.

Coxed Pairs — Great Britain; Italy; Romania.

Coxed fours — Romania; Germany; Poland.

Coxless Fours — Australia; U.S.; Slovenia.

Quadruple Scuees — Germany; Norway; Italy.

Coxed Eights — Canada; Romania; Germany.

Women

Single Sculls — Elisabeta Lipa, Romania; Annelies Bredael, Belgium; Siken Suzette laumann, Canada.

Double Scuils — Germany; Romania; China.

Coxless Pairs — Canada; Germany; U.S.

Coxless Fours — Canada; U.S. Germany.

Quadruple Sculis — Germany; Romania: Unified Team.

Coxed Eights — Canada; Romania; Germany.

Shooting\Men

Running Game Target — Michael Jakosits, Germany; Anatoly Asrabaev. Unified Team; Lubos Racansku, Czechoslovakia.

Rapid Fire Pistol — Ralf Schumann, Germany; Afanasijs Kuzmins, Latvia; Vladimir Vokhmainine, Unified Team.

Three-Position Rifle — Gratchia Petiklane, Unified Team; Bob Foth, U.S.; Ryohel Koba, Japan.

Free Rifle — Lee Eun Chul, S. Korea; Harald Stenvaag, Norway; Stevan Pletikosic, I.O.P.

Air Pistol — Wang Yifu, China; Serguei Pyjianov, Unified Team; China; Ragnar Skanaker, Sweden.

Women

Air Pistol — Marina Logvinenko, Unified Team; Jasna Sekaric, I.O.P.; Maria Zdravkova Grousdeva, Bulgaria.

Three-Position Rifle — Launia Meill, U.S.; Nonka Detcheva Matova, Bulgaria; Malgorzata Ksaizkiewicz. Poland.

Sport Pistol — Marina Logvinenko, Unified Team; Li Dulhong. China; Dorzhsuren Munkhbayar, Mongolia. **Air Rifle** — Yeo Kab Soon, S. Korea; Vesela Letcheva, Bulgaria; Aranka Binder, I.O.P.

Mixed

Trap — Petr Hrdlicka,
Czechosłovakia; Kazumi Watanabe,
Japan; Marco Venturini, Italy.
Skeet — Zhang Shan, China; Juan
Jorge Giha Yarur; Peru; Bruno Mario
Rossetti, Italy.

Soccer

Spain; Poland; Ghana.

Swimming Men

50m Freestyle — Aleksander Popov, Unified Team; Matt Biondi, U S., Tom Jager, U.S.

100m Freestyle — Aleksander Popov, Unified Team; Gustavo Borges, Brazil; Stephan Caron, France.

290m Freestyle — Evguenl Sadovyi, Unified Team; Anders Holmertz, Sweden; Antti Alexander Kasvio, Finland.

400m Freestyle — Evgueni Sadovyi, Unified Team; Kieren Perkins, Australia; Anders Holmertz, Sweden. 1,500m Freestyle — Kieren Perkins, Australia; Gien Housman, Australia; Joerg Hoffmann, Germany.

160m Breast-stroke — Nelson Diebel, U.S.; Norbert Rozsa, Hungary; Philip Rogers, Australia.

200m Breast-stroke — Mike Barrowman, U.S.; Norbert Rozsa, Hungary; Nick Gillingham, Great Britain.

100m Butterfly — Pablo Morales, U.S.; Rafal Szukala, Poland; Anthony Conrad Nesty, Surinam.

200m Butterfly — Mel Stewart, U.S.; Danyon Loader, New Zealand; Franck Esposito, France.

100m Backstroke — Mark Tewksbury, Canada; Jeff Rouse, U.S.; David Berkoff, U.S.

200m Backstroke — Martin Lopez-Zubero, Spain; Vladimir Selkov, Unified Team; Stefano Battistelli, Italy.

200m individual Medicy --- Tamas

Darnyl, Hungary; Greg Burgess, U.S.; Attila Czene; Hungary.

400m Individual Mediay — Tamas Darnyl, Hungary; Eric Namesnik, U.S.; Luca Sacchi, Italy.

400m Freestyle Relay — U.S. Unified Team: Germany.

800m Freestyle Relay — Unified Team; Sweden; U.S.

400m Mediey Relay — U.S.; Unified Team; Canada.

Women

50m Freestyle — Yang Wenyi, China; Zhuang Yong, China; Angel Martino, U.S.

100m Freestyle — Zhuang Yong, China, Jenny Thompson, U.S.; Franziska va Almsick, Germany. 400m Freestyle — Dagmar Hase, Germany; Janet Evans, U.S. Hayley Lewis, Australia.

800m Freestyle — Janet Evans, U.S.; Hayley Lewis, Australia; Jana Henke, Germany.

100m Breast-stroke — Yelina Roudkovskala, Unified Team, Anita Nail, U.S.; Samantha Riley, Australia. 200m Breast-stroke — Krisztina Egerszegi, Hungary; Tunde Szabo, Hungary; Lea Loveless, U.S. 100m Butterfly — Qian Hong, China;

Christine Ahmann-Leighton, U.S., Catharine Plewinski, France.

200m Butterfly — Summer Sanders, U.S.; Wang Xiaohong, China; Susan O'Neill; Australia.

200m Individual Medley—Lin Li, China; Summer Sanders, U.S.; Daniela Hunger, Germany.

400m Individual Medley — Krisztina Egerszegi, Hungary, Lin Li, China; Summer Sanders, U.S.

400m Freestyle Relay — U.S.; China; Germany.

400m Medley Relay — U.S.; Germany; Unified Team.

Synchronized Swimming

Solo — Kirsten Babb-Sprague, U.S.; Sylvie Frechette, Canada; Fumiko Okuno and Aki Takayama, Japan. **Dust** — Karen Josephson and Sarah Josephson, U.S.; Penny Vilages and Vicky Villagos, Canada; Fumiko Okuno and Aki Takayama, Japan.

Table Tennis

Mon's Singles — Jan Waldner, Sweden; Jean-Philippe Gatien, France; Kim Taek Soo, S. Korea. Mon's Doubles — Lu-Lin and Wang Tao, China; Steffen Fetzner and Jorg Rosskopf. Germany; (tie) Kang Hee Chan and Lee Chul Seung. S. Korea, & Kim Taek Soo and Yoo Nam Kyu, S. Korea.

Women's Singles — Deng Yaping, China; Qiao Hong. China; (tie) Hyun Jung Hwa, S. Korea & Li Bun Hui, N. Korea.

Women's Doubles — Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong, China, Chen Zihe and Gao Jun, China; (tie) Li Bun Hui and Yu Sun Bok, N. Korea & Hong Cha Ok and Hyun Jung Hwa, S. Korea.

Team Handball

Mon — Unified Team, Sweden;
France
Women — S Korea; Norway, Unified

Team.

Tennis

Men's Singles - Marc Rossel, Switzerland, Jordi Arrese, Spain; (tie) Goran Ivanisevic, Croatia & Andrei Cherkasov, Unified Team. Men's Doubles — Boris Becker and Michael Stich, Germany; Wayne Ferreira and Piet Norval, South Africa: (tie) Goran Ivanisevic and Goran Prpic, Croatia & Javier Frana and Christian Carlos Miniussi, Argentina. Women's Singles — Jennifer Capriati, U.S.; Steffi Graf, Germany; (tie) Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Spain, & Mary Joe Ferandez, U.S. Women's Doubles -Gigi Fernandez and Mary Joe Fernandez. U.S.; Conchita Martinez and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Spain; (tie) Natalya Zvereva and Leila Meskhi, Unified



Marc Rosset grimances here but he walked away with the tennis gold at Bercelona

Team & Rachel McQuillan and Nicole Provis, Australia.

Volleyball

Mon — Brazil; Netherlands; U.S. **Women** — Cuba; Unified Team; U.S.

Water Polo

Italy; Spain; Unified Team.

Weightlifting

115 Pounds — Ivan Ivanov, Bulgaria, Lin Qisheng, China; Traian Ciharean, Romania.

123 Pounds — Chun Byung Kwan, S. Korea; Liu Shoubin, China; Luo Jianming, China.

132 Pounds — Naim Suleymanoglu, Turkey; Nikolai Peshalov, Bulgaria; He Yingqiang, China.

148 Pounds — Israel Militossian, Unified Team; Yolo Yotav Bulgaria; Andreas Behm, Germany.

165 Pounds — Fedor Kassapu, Unified Team; Pablo Lara, Cuba; Kim Myong Nam, N. Korea.

180 Pounds — Pyrros Dimas, Greece; Krzysztol Siemion, Poland; None awarded. Ibragim Samadov of the Unified Team refused medal.

198 Pounds — Kakhi Kakhiachvilli, Unified Team; Serguei Syrtsov, Unified Team; Sergiusz Wolczaniecki, Poland.

220 Pounds — Victor Tregoubov, Unified Team; Timour Taimazov, Unified Team; Waldemar Malak, Poland.

243 Pounds — Ronny Weller, Germany; Artour Akoev, Unified Team; Stefan Botev, Bulgaria. Over 243 Pounds — Aleksander Kourlovitch, Unified Team; Leonid Taranenko, Unified Team; Manfred Nerlinger, Germany.

Wrestling Freestyle

106 Pounds — Kim II, N. Korea; Kim Jong Shin, S. Korea; Vougar Oroudjov, Unified Team.

115 Pounds — Li Hak Son, S. Korea; Zeke Jones, U.S.; Valentin Jordanov, Bulgaria.

126 Pounds — Alejandro Puertro Diaz, Cuba; Serguel Smal, Unified Team; Kim Yong Sik, N. Korea. 137 Pounds — John Smith, U.S. Asgari Mohammadian, Iran; Lazaro

Reinoso Martinez, Cuba.

150 Pounds — Arsen Fadzaev, Unified Team; Valentin Dotchev Getzov, Bulgaria; Kosel Akaishi, Japan.

163 Pounds — Park Jang Soon, S. Korea; Kenny Monday, U.S.; Amir Reza Khadem Azghadi, Iran.

182 Pounds — Kevin Jackson, U.S.; Elmadi Jabraijov, Unified Team; Rasul Khadem Azghadi, Iran.

196 Pounds — Makharbek Khadartsev, Unified Team; Kenan Simsek, Turkey; Chris Campbell, U.S. 225 Pounds — Leri Khabelov, Unified Team; Heido Balz, Germany; All Kayali, Turkey.

286 Pounds — Bruce Baumgartner, U.S.; Jeff Thue, Canada; David Gobediichvili, Unified Team.

Greco-Roman

106 Pounds - Oleg Koutherendo,

Unified Team; Vincenzo Maenza, Italy; Wilber Sanchez, Cuba. 115 Pounds — Jon Ronningen, Norway; Alfred Ter-Mkritchian, Unified Team; Min Kyung Kap. S. Korea.

126 Pounds — An Han Bong. S. Korea; Rifat Yildiz, Germany; Sheng Zetian, China.

137 Pounds — M. Akif Pirim, Turkey; Serguei Martynov, Unified Team; Juan Luis Maren Delis, Cuba.

150 Pounds — Attila Repka, Hungary; Islam Dougoutchiev, Unified Team; Rodney Smith, U.S.

163 Pounds — Mnatsakan Iskandarian, Unified Team; Jozef Tracz, Poland; Torbjom Johansson, Sweden.

181 Pounds — Peter Farkas, Hungary; Piotr Steplen, Poland; Daoulet Tourtykhanov, Unified Team. 198 Pounds — Maik Bullmann, Germany; Hakki Basar, Turkey; Gogui

Kogouachvili, Unified Team.

220 Pounds — Hector Milian Perez,
Cuba; Dennis Marvin Koslowski, U.S.;
Serguei Demiachkievitch, Unified
Team.

286 Pounds — Aleksander Karelin, Unified Team; Tomas Johansson, Sweden; Ioan Grigoras, Romania.

Yachting

Sailing — Denmark; U.S.; Great Britain.

Fina — Jose van der Ploeg, Spain; Brian Ledbetter, U.S.; Craig Monk, New Zealand.

Tormado — France; U.S.; Australia. Europe — Linda Anderson, Norway; Natalia Via Dufresne, Spain; Julia Trotman, U.S.

Flying Dutchman — Spain; U.S.; Denmark.

Star — U.S.; New Zealand; Canada.

Men's Sailboard — Franck David,
France; Mike Gebhardt, U.S.; Lars
Kleppich, Australia.

Women's Sailboard — Barbara Kendall, New Zeland; Zhang Xiaodong, China; Dorlen de Vries, 'Netherlands.

Men's 470 — Spain; U.S.; Estonia. Women's 470 — Spain; New Zealand; U.S.

ROLL OF HONOUR

A compilation of the medal winners in athletics in 100 years of Olympics

COMPILED BY SACO V.H STEPHEN

Athletics - Men

100-Metres

1896 Thomas Burke, United States....12s. 1900 Francis W. Jarvis, United States....11.0s. 1904 Archie Hahn, United States....11s. 1908 Reginald Walker, South Africa....10.8s. 1912 Ralph Craig, United States....10.8s. 1920 Charles Paddock, United States....10.8s, 1924 Harold Abrahams, Great Britain....10.6s. 1928 Percy Williams, Canada....10.8s. 1932 Eddie Tolan, United States....10.3s. 1936 Jesse Owens, United States....10.3s. 1948 Harrison Dillard, United States....10.3s. 1952 Lindy Remigino, United States....10.4s. 1956 Bobby Morrow, United States....10.5s. 1960 Armin Hary, Germany....10.2s. 1964 Bob Hayes, United States....10.0s. 1968 Jim Hines, United States....9.95s 1972 Valery Borzov. USSR....10.14s. 1976 Hasely Crawford, Trinidad....10.06s. 1980 Allan Wells, Great Britain....10.25s. 1984 Carl Lewis, United States....9.99s. 1988 Carl Lewis, United States....9.92s. 1992 Linford Christie, Great Britain....9.96s.

200-Metres

1900 Walter Tewksbury, United States....22.2s. 1904 Archie Hahn, United States....21.6s. 1908 Robert Kerr, Canada....22.6s. 1912 Ralph Craig, United States....21.7s. 1920 Allan Woodring, United States....22s. 1924 Jackson Scholz, United States....21.6s. 1928 Percy Williams,

Daley Thompson , one of Britain's best athletes reigned in the decathlon at the '80 and the '84 Olympics



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WORLD CLASS LUBRICANTS



Canada....21.8s. 1932 Eddie Tolan, United States....21.2s. 1936 Jesse Owens, United States....20.7s. 1948 Mel Patton, United States....21.1s. 1952 Andrew Stanfield, United States....20.7s. 1956 Bobby Morrow, United States....20.6s. 1960 Livio Berruti, Italy....20.5s. 1964 Henry Carr, United States....20.3s. 1968 Tommie Smith, United States....19.83s. 1972 Valeri Borzov, USSR....20.00s. 1976 Donald Quarrie, Jamaica....20.23s. 1980 Pietro Mennea, Italy....20.19s. 1984 Carl Lewis, United States....19.80s. 1988 Joe Deloach, United States....19.75s. 1992 Mike Marsh, United States....20.01s.

400-Metres

1896 Thomas Burke, United States....54.2s, 1900 Maxey Long, United States....49.4s. 1904 Harry Hillman, United States....49.2s. 1908 Wyndham Halswelle, Great Britain, Walkover....50s. 1912 Charles Reidpath, United States....48.2s. 1920 Bevil Rudd, South Africa....49.6s. 1924 Eric Liddell, Great Britain....47.6s. 1928. Ray Barbuti, United States....47.8s. 1932 William Carr, United States....46.2s. 1936 Archie Williams, United States 46.5s. 1948 Arthur Wint, Jamaica, BWI....46.2s. 1952 George Rhoden, Jamaica, BWI....45.9s. 1956 Charles Jenkins, United States....46.7s. 1960 Otis Davis, United States....44.9s. 1964 Michael Larrabee, United States....45.1s. 1968 Lee Evans, United States....43.80s. 1972 Vincent Mathews, United States....44.66s. 1976 Alberto Juantorena, Cuba....44,26s 1980 Viktor Markin, USSR....44.60s 1984 Alonzo Babers, United States. ..44.27s. 1988 Steven Lewis, United States ...43 87s 1992 Quincy Watts, United States....43.50s.

800-Metres

1896 Edwin Flack, Australia... 2m.11s. 1900 Alfred Tysoe, Great Britan....2m.1.2s. 1904 James Lightbody, United States....1m.56s. 1908 Mel Sheppard, United States....1m 52 8s. 1912 James Meredith, United States.... 1m.51.9s 1920 Albert Hill, Great Britain.. 1m.53.4s. 1924 Douglas Lowe, Great Britain. 1m.52.4s. 1928 Douglas Lowe, Great Britain . .1m 51.8s. 1932 Thomas Hampson, Great Britain... 1m.49.8s. 1936 John Woodruff, United States.. .1m.52.9s. 1948 Mal Whitfield, United States....1m 49 2s 1952 Mal Whitfield, United States....1m.49.2s 1956 Thomas Courtmen, United States... 1 47.7s. 1960 Peter Snell, New Zealand... 1m.46.3s. 1964 Peter Snell, New Zealand ... 1m.45.1s. 1968 Ralph Doubel, Australia....1m.44.3s. 1972 Dave Wottle, United States....1m.45.9s. 1976 Alberto Juantorena, Cuba ... 1m.43.50s 1980 Steve Ovett, Great Britain....1m.45.40s. 1984 Joaquim Cruz, Brazil....Im.43.00s. 1988 Paul Ereng, Kenya. .. 1m.43.45s. 1992 William Tanui, Kenya.... 1m.43.66s.

1,500-Metres

1896 Edwin Flack, Australia....4m.33.2s. 1900 Charles Bennett. Great Britain....4m.6.2s. 1904 James Lightbody,



Florence Griffith Joyner won both the 100mts and the 200mts at the Seoul Olympics. She was as well known for her sartorial taste as she was for her sprinting

United States....4m.5.4s. 1908 Mel Sheppard, United States....4m.3.4s. 1912 Amold Jackson, Great Britain.... 3m.56 8s. 1920 Albert Hill, Great Britain ... 4m.1.8s. 1924 Paavo Nurmi, Finland....3m.53.6s. 1928 Harry Larva, Finland....3m.53.2s. 1932 Luigi Beccali, Italy....3m.51.2s. 1936 Jack Lovelock, New Zealand....3m.47.8s. 1948 Henri Eriksson, Sweden... 3m.49.8s. 1952 Joseph Barthel, Luxemburg....3m.45.2s. 1956 Ron Delany, Ireland....3m.41.2s. 1960 Herb Elliott, Australia....3m.35.6s.

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The queen of heptathlon Jackie Joyner Kersee. She won the event in both the '88 and '92 Games

1964 Peter Snell, New Zealand.... 3m.38.1s. 1968 Kipchoge Keino, Kenya....3m.34.9s. 1972 Pekka Vasala, Finland....3m.36.3s. 1976 John Walker, New Zealand....3m.39.17s. 1980 Sebastian Coe, Great Britain.....3m.38.4s. 1984 Sebastian Coe, Great Britain...... 3m.32.53s*. 1988 Peter Rono, Kenya....3m.35.96s. 1992

Fermin Cacho Ruiz, Spain....3m.40.12s.

3,000-Metre Steeplechase

1920 Percy Hodge, Great Britain....10m.0.4s. 1924 Wille Ritola, Finland....9m.33.6s. 1928 Toivo Loukola, Finland....9m.21.8s. 1932 Volmari Iso-Hollo, Finland....10m.33.4s.

(About 3,450 mtrs. extra lap by error)
1936 Volmari Iso-Hollo, Finland.... 9m.3.8s. 1948 Thore
Sjoestrand, Sweden9m.4.6s. 1952 Horace Ashenfeltor,
United States....8m.45.4s. 1956 Chris Brasxher, Great
Britain....8m.41.2s. 1960 Zdzislaw Krzyskowiak, Poland....
8m.34.2s. 1964 Gaston Roelants, Belgium....8m.30.8s. 1968
Amos Biwott, Kenya....8m.51s. 1972 Kipchoge Keino,
Kenya....8m.23.6s. 1976 Anders Garderud,
Sweden....8m.08.2s. 1980 Bronislaw Malinowski,
Poland....8m.09.7s. 1984 Julius Korir, Kenya....8m.11.8s.
1988 Julius Kariuki, Kenya....8m.05.51s. 1992 Matthew Birir,
Kenya....8m.08.84s.

5,000-Metres

1912 Hannes Kolehmainen, Finland.... 14m.36.6s. 1920 Joseph Guilemol, France....14m.55.6s. 1924 Paavo Nurmi, Finland....14m.31.2s. 1928 Willie Ritola, Finland.....14m.38s. 1932 Lauri Lehtinen, Finland.....14m.30s. 1936 Gunnar Hockert, Finland.....14m.22.2s. 1948 Gaston Reff. Belgium....14m.17.6s. 1952 Emil Zatopek, Czechoslovakia.... 14m.6.6s. 1956 Vladimir Kuls, USSR.... 13m.39.6s. 1960 Murray Halberg, New Zealand....13m.43.4s. 1964 Bob Schul, United States....13m.48.8s. 1968 Mohamed Gammoudi, Tunisia....14m.05.0s. 1972 Lasse Viren, Finland....13m.26.4s. 1976 Lasse Viren, Finland.....13m.24.76s. 1980 Miruts Yifter, Ethiopia.... 13m.21.0s. 1984 Said Aouita, Morocco.... 13m.59s. 1988 John Ngugim, Kenya....13m.11.70s. 1992 Dieter Baumann, Germany....13m.12.52s.

10,000-Metres

1912 Hannes Kolehmainen, Finland.... 31m.20.8s. 1920 Paavo Nurmi, Finland....31m.45.8s. 1924 Willie Ritola, Finland.... 30m.23.2s. 1928 Paavo Nurmi, Finland.... 30m.23.2s. 1928 Paavo Nurmi, Finland.... 30m.18.8s. 1932 Janusz Kusocinski, Poland.... 30m.11.4s. 1936 Ilmari Salminen, Finland.... 30m.15.4s. 1948 Emil Zatopek, Czechoslovakia.... 29m.59.6s. 1952 Emil Zatopek, Czechoslovakia.... 29m.17.0s. 1956 Vladimir Kuts, USSR....28m.45.6s. 1960 Pyotr Bolotnikov, USSR....28m.32.2s. 1964 Billy Mills, United States....28m.24.4s. 1968 Naltali Temu, Kenya....29m.27.4s. 1972 Lasse Viren, Finland....27m.38.4s. 1976 Lasse Viren, Flnland....27m.38.4s. 1980 Miruts Yifter, Ethiopia....27m.42.7s. 1984 Alberto Cova, Italy....27m.42.7s. 1988 Brahim Boutaib, Morocco.... 27m.21.46s. 1992 Khalid Skah, Morocco.....27m.46.7s.

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Marathon

1896 Spiridon Loues, Greece.....2h.58m.50s. 1900 Michel Theato, France....2h.59m.45s. 1904 Thomas Hicks, United States....3h.28m.63s. 1908 John J. Hayes, United States.... 2h.55m.18.4s 1912 Kenneth McArthur, South Africa....2h.36m.54.8s. 1920 Hannes Kolehmainen, Finland.... 2h.32m.35.8s. 1924 Albin Stenroos, Finland....2h.41m.22.6s. 1928 A.B.El Ouali, France....2h.32m.57s. 1932 Juan Zabala, Argentina....2h.31m.36s. 1936 Kijung Son, Japan (Korea)....2h.29m.19.2s. 1948 Delfo Cabrera, Argentina.... 2h.34m.51.6s. 1952 Emil Zatopek, Czechoslovakia....2h.23m.03.2s. 1956 Alain Mimoun, France....2h.25m. 1960 Abebe Bikila, Ethiopia....2h.12m.11.2s. 1972 Frank Shorter, United

States.... 2h.12m.19.8s. 1976 Waldemar Clerpinski, E.

Bruce Jenner won the decathlon gold in the Montreal Olympics. It was also the last time an American won this event

Germany....2h.09m.55s. 1980 Maurizio Damilano, Italy.... 1h.23m.35.5s. 1984 Ernesto Canto, Mexico... 1h.23m.13.0s 1988 Josef Pribilinex, Czech....1h.19m.57.0s. 1992 Daniel Plaza Montero, Spain.... 1h.21m.45.0s.

50-Kilometre Walk

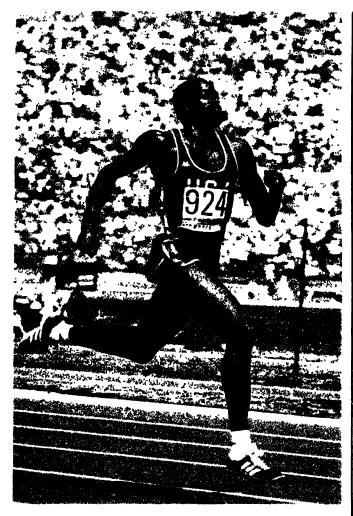
1932 Thomas W. Green, Great Britain....4h.50m.10s. 1936 Harold Whitlock, Great Britain....4h.30m.41.4s. 1948 John Ljunggren, Sweden....4h.41m.52s. 1952 Giuseppe Dordoni, Italy.... 4h.28m.07.8s. 1956 Norman Read, New Zealand....4h.30m.42.8s. 1960 Donald Thompson, Great Britain....4h.25m.30s. 1964 Abdon Pamich, Italy.... 4h.11m.12.4s. 1968 Christoph Hohne, E.

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Germany....4h.20m.13.7s 1972 Bern Kannenberg, W. Germany... 3h 56m.11.6s. 1980 Hartwig Gauter, E. Germany....3h.49m.24s. 1984 Raul Gonzalez, Mexico ...3h.47m.26s 1988 Vayachselav Ivanenko, USSR....3h.38m.29s. 1992 Andrei Perlov, Unified Team... 3h 50m.13s

110-Metre Hurdles

1896 Thomas Curtis, United States....18.6s. 1900 Alvin

Kraenzlein, United States.... 15.4s. 1904 Frederick Schule, United States....16s. 1908 Forrest Smithson, United States....15s. 1912 Frederick Kelly, United States....15.1s. 1920 Earl Thomson, Canada....14.8s. 1924 Daniel Kinsey, United States....15s. 1928 Sydney Atkinson, South Africa....14.8s. 1932 George Saling, United States.... 14.6s. 1936 Forrest Towns, United States.... 14.2s. 1948 William Porter, United States....13.9s. 1952 Harrison Dilard, United States....13.7s. 1956 Lee Calhoun, United States....13.5s. 1960 Lee Calhoun, United States.... 13.8s. 1964 Hayes Jones, United States....13.6s. 1968 Willie Davenport, United States....13.3s. 1972 Rod Milburn, United States....13.24s. 1976 Guy Druf, France....13.30s. 1980 Thomas Munkelt, F. Germany....13.39s. 1984 Roger Kingdom, United States....13.20s 1988 Roger Kingdom, United States....12.98s. 1992 Mark McCoy, Canada....13.12s.

400-Metre Hurdies

1900 J.W.B Tewksbury, United State....57.6. 1904 Harry Hilman, United States....53s. 1908 Charles Bacon, United States....55s. 1920 Frank Loomis, United States....54s. 1924 F. Morgan Taylor, United States....52.6s. 1928 Lord Burghley. Great Britain....53.4s. 1932 Robert Tisdall, Ireland... 51.7s. 1936 Glenn Hardin, United States....52.4s. 1948 Roy Cochran, United States.....51.1s. 1952 Charles Moore, United States.....50.8s. 1956 Glenn Davis, United States.....50 Is. 1960 Glenn Davis, United States.....49.3s. 1964 Rex Cawley, United States.....9.6s. 1968 Dave Hemery, Great Britain.....48 12s. 1972 John Akii-Bua. Uganda... 47 82s. 1976 Edwin Moses, United States....47.64s. 1980 Volker Beck, F. Germany....48.70s. 1984 Edwin Moses, United States.....47.75s. 1988 Andre Phillips, United States47.19s. 1992 Kevin Young, Unites States....46.78s*

High Jump

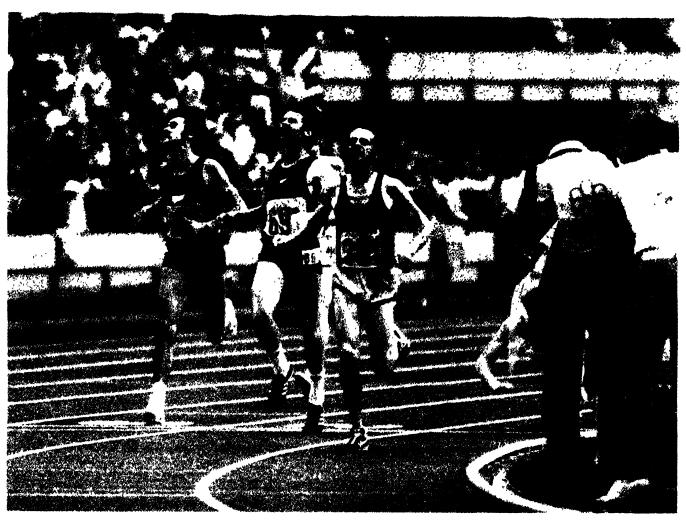
1896 Fllery Clark, United States....5ft. 111 rin. 1900 Irving Baxter, United States,...6ft 24/sin, 1904 Samuel Jones, United States....5lt 11 in. 1908 Harry Porter, Unites States. ..6ft. 3 in. Landon, United States....6ft 4 in. 1924 Harold Osbom, United States... 6ft 6 in. 1928 Robert W. King, United States....6ft 41 zin 1932 Duncan McNaughton, Canada .. 6ft 55 sin. 1936 Comellus Johnson, United States....6ft 8 in. 1948 John I. Winter, Australia....6ft. 6 in. 1952 Walter Davis, United States....6ft. 8-32 in. 1956 Charles Dumas, United States....6ft. 1115 in. 1960 Robert Shavlakadze, USSR. .7ft 1 in. 1964 Valery Brumet, USSR. 7ft. 85 vin. 1968 Dick Fosbury, United States... 7ft. 414in. 1972 Yuri Tarmak, USSR.. .7ft. 314in. 1976 Jacek Wszola, Poland... 7ft 4121n. 1980 Gerd Wessig, E. Germany. .. 7ft. 83/4 in 1984 Dlemar Mogenburg, W Germany....7ft. 81/2m 1988 Guennadi Avdeenko, USSR. .7ft 9¹/₂ in. 1992 Javier Sotomayor, Cuba. ..7it 8¹ in.

SERVO: ON THE VICTORY LAP. LAP AFTER LAP.



WORLD CLASS LUBRICANTS





Lasse Viren of Finland (301) won the 5000m both in the '72 and the '76 Olympics

Long Jump

1896 Ellery Clark, United States....20ft. 10 in. 1900 Alvin Kraenzlein, United States ... 23ft. 8⁵/₄ 1904 Myer Prinstein. United States... 24ft. 1 in. 1908 Frank Irons, United States....24ft. 61/2 in. 1912 Albert Gutterson, United States....24ft. 111/4in. 1920 William Pettersen, Sweden, United States....23ft. 51/2 in. 1924 DeHart Hubbard, United States....24ft. 5 in. 1928 Edward B. Hamm. United States....25ft. 41/21n. 1932 Edward Gordon, United States....25ft. 31/4in. 1936 Jesse Owens, United States....26ft. 51/2 in. 1948 William Steele, United States....25ft. 8 in. 1952 Jerome Biffle United States....24ft. 10 in. 1956 Gregory Bell. United States....25ft. 81/4in. 1960 Ralph Boston, United States....26ft. 73/4in. 1964 Lynn Davies, Great Britain ...26ft. 5% in. 1968 Bob Beamon, United States....27ft. 1972 Randy Williams, United States....27ft. 1976 Amle Robinson, United States....27ft. 1980 Lutz Dombrowski, E. Germany....28ft. 1984 Carl Lewis, United States....28ft. 1988 Carl Lewis, United States....28ft. 1992 Carl Lewis, United States....28ft.

400-Metre Relay

1912 Great Britain....42.4s. 1920 United States....42.2s. 1924 United States....41.0s.

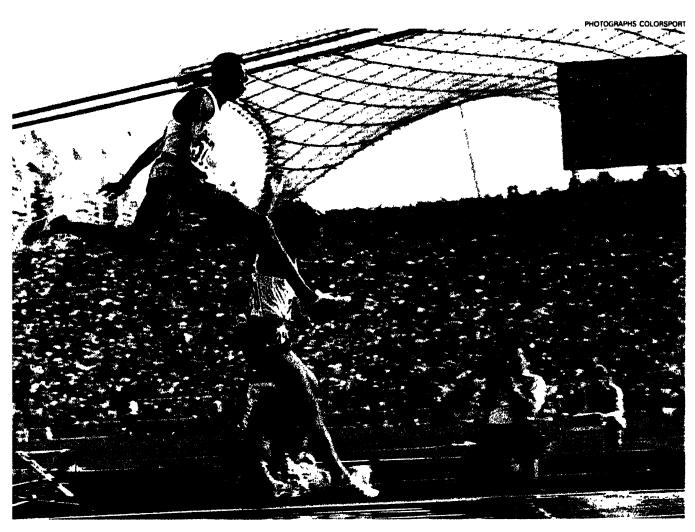
1928 United States . 41.0s. 1932 United States....40.0s. 1936 United States. ..39.8s. 1948 United States....40.0s. 1952 United States....40 0s 1956 United States....39.0s. 1960 Germany (U.S. dosqialified)....39.5s. 1964 United States. ..39 0s. 1968 United States....39.2s 1972 United States....38.19s. 1976 United States....38.3s. 1980 United States....38.26s. 1984 United States379.83s. 1988 USSR (U.S. disqualified)....38.19s. 1992 United States....37.4s*.

1,600-Metre Relay

1908 United States....3m.29 4s 1912 United States....3m.16.6s. 1920 Great Britain ...3m.22.2s. 1924 United States....3m.16.6s. 1928 United States....3m.14.2s. 1932 United States....3m.8.2s. 1936 Great Britan....3m 9s. 1948 United States ...3m.10.4s. 1952 Jamaica....3m.03.9s 1956 United States....3m.04 8s. 1960 United States....3m.02.2s. 1964 United States....3m.007s. 1968 United States....3m.007s. 1968 United States....2m.56.16s. 1972 Kenya....2m.59.8s. 1976 United States ...2m.58.65s. 1980 USSR....3m.01.1s. 1984 United States....2m 57.91s. 1988 United States....2m.56.16s. 1992 Unites States....2m,55.74s*

Pole Vault

1896 William Hoyt, United States....10ft.10 in. 1900 Irving Baxter. United States....10ft.10 in. 1904 Charles Dyorak, united States....11ft. 5 1/4 in. 1908 A.C. Gilbert, United States. Edward Cook Jr., United States....12ft.2 in. 1912 Harry Babcock, United States ...12ft 11 1/2 in. 1920 Frank Foss, United States....13ft.5 in. 1924 Lee Barmes, United States in 12ft. 11 1/2 in. 1928 Sabin W. Carr, United States....13ft. 1932



William Miller, United States....14ft. 1³/4in. 1936 Earle Meadows, United States....14ft. in. 1948 Guinn Smith, United States....14ft. 1¹/4in. 1952 Robert Richards, United States....14ft. 1¹ in. 1956 Robert Richards, United States....14ft. 1¹ in. 1956 Robert Richards, United States....14ft. 1¹/2in. 1960 Don Bragg. United States....15ft 5 in. 1964 Fred Hansen, United States....16ft 8³/4in. 1968 Bob Seagren, United States....17ft 8¹/2in. 1972 Wolfgang Nordwig, E. Germany...18ft. 0¹/2in. 1976 Tadeusz Slusarski, Poland....18ft. 0¹/2in. 1980 Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz, Poland....18ft. 1¹/2 1984 Pierre Quinnon. France 18ft. 10¹/4in. 1988 Serge¹ Bubka, USSR....19ft. 9¹/4in. 1992 Maksim Tarassov, United Team....19ft. 0¹/4in.

Hannes Inrow

1900 John flanagan, United States....163ft. 1 in. 1904 John Flanagan, United States....168ft. 1 in. 1908 John Flanagan, United States....170ft. 4¹/4 in. 1912 Matt McGrath, United States.....179ft. 7¹/8 in. 1920 Pat Ryan, United States....173ft. 5⁵/8 in. 1924 Fred Tootell, United States.....174ft. 10¹/8 in. 1928 Patrick O'Calaghan, Ireland.....168ft. 7¹/2 in. 1932 Patrick O'Callaghan, Ireland.....176ft. 11¹/8 in. 1936 Kari Hein, Germany.....185ft. 4 in. 1948 Imre Nemeth, Hungary.....183ft. 11¹/3 in. 1952 Jozel Csomak, Hungray....197ft. 11⁹/16 in. 1956 Harold Conolly. United States.....207ft. 3¹/2 in. 1960 Vasify rudenkov. USSR.....226ft. 15¹/8 in. 1964 Romuald Klim, USSR.....228ft. 9¹/2 in. 1968 Gyula Zsivolsky. Hungary.....240ft. 8 in. 1972 Anatoli Bondarchum, USSR.....24ft. 8 in. 1976 Yuri Syedukh, USSR.....254ft 4 in. 1980 Yuri Syedykh

Kip Keino of Kenya sails over a hurdle as he goes for his gold in the 3000m steeplechase at the Munich Olympics

USSR....268ft. 4¹/₂in 1985 Juha Tlainen, Finland....256ft. 2 in. 1988 Sergel Litinov, USSR....278ft. 2¹/₂in. 1992 Andrey Abduvallyev, Unified Team 270ft. 9¹/₂in.

Discus finaw

1896 Robert Garrett, United States....95th. 71/2in. 1904 Martin Sheridan, United States....128ft. 101/2-in. 1908 Martin Sheridan, United States....134ft. 2 in. 1912 Armas Talpate Finland....148ft. 3 in. Both hands-Armas Taipale, Finland....27ft. 101/4in.1920 Flmer Niklander, Finland....146ft. 7 in. 1924 Clarence House, United States....15 ft. 4 in. 1928 Clarence Houser, United States.... 155ft. 3 in. 1932 John Anderson, United States....162ft. 4 in. 1936 Ken Carpenter, United States....165ft. 7 in. 1948 Adolfo Consolini, Italy....173ft. 2 in. 1952 Sim Iness, United States....180ft. 6.8 in. 1956 Al Oerter, United States.... 184ft. 10½ in. 1960 Al Oerter, United Strtes....194ft. 2 in. 1964 Al Oeter, United States....200ft. 11/2 in. 1968 Al Oerter, United States....212ft. 61/2 in. 1972 Ludvik Danek, Czechoslovakla....21 ft. 3 in. 1976 Mac Wilkins, United States....22ft. 5.4 in. 1980 Viktor Rashchupkin, USSR....218ft. 8 in. 1984 Rolf Dannenberg, W. Germany....218ft. 6 in. 1988 Jurgen Schult, E. Germany....225ft 91/4in. 1992 Romas Ubartas, Lithuania....213ft. 73/4in.

Triple Jump

1896 James Connoly, United States....44ft. 113/4in. 1900 Myer Prinstein, United States....47ft. 53/4in. 1904 Myer Prinstein, United States....47ft. 1908 Timothy Ahearne, Great Brinter. Ire land....48ft. 111/4in. 1912 Gystaf Lindblom, Sweden....48ft. 51/4 in. 1920 Vilho Tuulos, Finland....47ft. 7 in. 1924 Anthony Winter, Australlia....50ft. 111/4in. 1932 Mikio Oda, Japan....49ft. 11 in. 1932 Mikio Oda, Japan....49ft. 11 in. 1936 Chuhel Nambu, Japan....51ft. 7 in. 1940 Naolo Tajima, Japan....52ft 6 in. 1948 Arme Ahman, Sween....50ft 61/4 in. 1952 Adhemar da Silva, Brazil....53ft 23/4in. 1956 Adhemar da Silve, Brazil.....53ft. 73/4in. 1960 Jozef Schmidt, Poland....55ft. 2 in. 1964 Jozef Schmidt, Poland....55ft. 31/2in. 1968 Viktor Saneev, USSR....57ft. 3/4 in. 1972 Voktor Saneev, USSR....56ft. 11 in. 1976 Viktor Sancev, USSR....56ft. 8³/4in. 1980 Jaak Uudmae, USSR....56ft. 111/4in. 1984 Al Joyner, United States....56ft. 711/2 in. 1988 Hristo Markov, Bulgaria....57ft. 91/4 in. 1992 Mike Contey, United States.... 59ft. 71/2 in.

16-lb.Shot Put

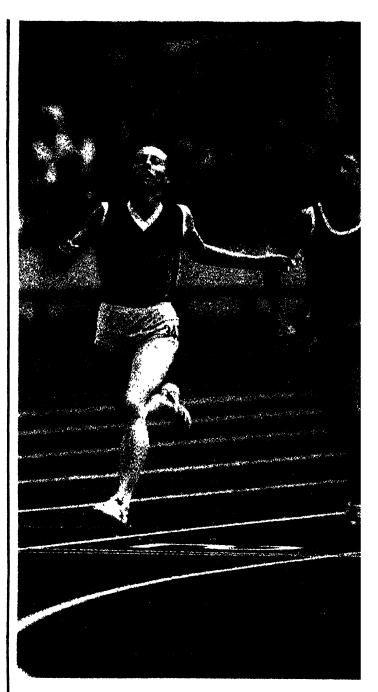
1896 Robert Garrett, United States....36ft. 93/4in. 1900 Richard Sheldon, United States....46ft. 31/41n. 1904 Ralph Rose, United States....48ft. 7 in. 1908 Ralph Rose, United States....46ft. 71/21n. 1912 Pat McDonald, United States... 50ft 4 in. Both Hands-Ralph Rose, United States....90ft, 51/2 in. 1920 Ville Porhota, Finland. ..48tt. 714in. 1924 Clarence Houser, United States....49ft. 21/4in. 1928 John Kuck, United States... 52ft 3/4in. 1932 Leo Sexton, United States....52ft 6 in. 1936 Hans Woellke, Germany 53tt. 1 4in. 1948 Wibur Thompson, United States... 56ft 2 in 1952 Parry O'Brien, United States.. .57ft. 1/2 in. 1956 Parry O'Brien. United States: 60ft 111/4 in 1960 William Nieder, United States....64ft. 6 4in. 1964 Dallas Long, United States....66ft. 8¹/2 in. 1968 Randy Malson, United States... 67ft 4³/4 in 1972 Wladyslaw Komar, Poland... 69ft 6 in. 1976 Udo Beyer, E. Germany .69ft 1 in. 1980 Vladimir Kiselyov, USSR...70ft. ¹⁵m. 1984 Alessandro Andrei, Italy. ..69ft. 9 in 1988 Ulf Timmermann 1. Germany... 73ft. 8 4in. 1992 Michael Sluice, United States: 71ft 212in.

Javelin

1908 Erik Lemming, Sweden. . 178
it $|7^{1}\rangle_{2}$ m, Heldmmiddle-Erik Lemming, Sweden., .179ft 101/2in, 1912 Erik Lemming, Sweden. 198ft. 1114m. Both hands, Julius Saaristo, Finland. . 358ft 117/8m 1920 John Myyra, Finland....215lt 9 4in 1924 John Myyra, Finland....206lt. 6 in 1928 Eric Lundkvist, Sweden ... 218ft 6 isin 1932 Mati Jarvinen, Finland ...238ft. 6in 1936 Gerhard Stoeck, Germany., 235ft. 876m 1948 Tapio Rautavaara, Finland....228ft. 101/2m | 1952 Cy Young, United States .. 242ft, 0.79 m. 1956 Egil Danielson, Norway.... 281ft. 2¹⁶tin, 1960 Viktor Isibutenko, USSR. , 277ft, 8³ sm. 1964 Pauli Nevala, Finland... 271ft. 21 zin. 1968 Janis Lusis, USSR . .295ft 71/4in. 1972 Klaus Wolfermann, W. Germany....296ft 10 in. 1976 Miklos Nemeth. Hungary....310ft 4 in. 1980 Dainis Kula. USSR ...299ft. 25 km. 1984 Arto haerkoenen, Finland.. .284ft. 8 in. 1988 Tapio Korjus, Finland....276ft. 6 in 1992 Jan Zelezny, Czech....294ft 2 in.

Decathlon

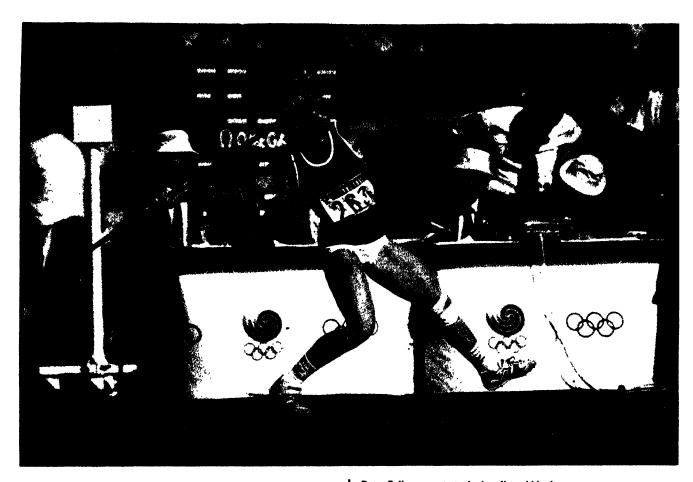
1912 Hugo Wieslander, Sweden....7,724 49 pts 1920 Helge Lovland, Norway... 6,804.35 pts. 1924 Harold Osborn, United States....7,710.77 pts. 1928 Paavo Yrjola, Finland....8,053.29 pts 1932 James Bausch, United States....8,462.23 pts. 1936 Glenn Morris, United States....7,9000 pts. 1948 Robert Mathias, United States.....7,139 pts. 1952 Robert Mathias, United States....7,139 pts. 1952 Robert Mathias, United States....7,887 pts. 1956 Millon Campbell, United States....7,937 pts. 1960 Rafer Johnson, United States....8,392 pts. 1964 Willi Holdorf, Germany....7,887 pts. (c). 968 Bill Toomey, United States....8,193 pts. 1972 Nikolai Avilov, USSR....8,454 pts. 1976 Bruce Jenner, United States....8617



Tationa Kazankina was the best female middle distance runner in the Seventies. Picture shows her winning the 1500m at the Montreal Olympics

pts 1980 D. ley Thompson, Great Britain....8,495 pts. 1984 Daley Thompson, Great Britain....8,798 pts. (b) 1988 Christian Schenk, E. Germany....8,488 pts. 1992 Robert Zmclik, Czechoslovakia....8,611 pts.

(a) Jim Thorpe of the U.S. won the 1912 Decathlon with 8,413 pts but was disqualified and had to return his medals because he had played professional baseball prior to the Olympic games. The medals were restored posthumously in 1982. (b) Scoring change effective Apr., 1985. (c) Former point systems used prior to 1964.



Athletics-Women

100-Metres

1928 Elizabeth Robinson, United States....12.2s. 1932 Stella Walsh, Poland....11.9s. 1936 Helen Stephens, United States....1.5s. 1948 Franchina Blankers-Koen Netherlands....11.9s. 1952 Majorte Jackson, Australia....11.5s. 1956 Betty Cuthbert, Australia....11.5s. 1960 Wilma Rudolph, United States....11.0s. 1964 Wyomla Tyus, United States....11.0s. 1972 Renate Stecher, E. Germany....11.07s. 1976 Barbel Eckert, E. Germany....11.08s. 1980 Barbel Wockel, E. Germany....11.6s. 1984 Valerie Brisco-Hooks, United States....10.07s. 1988 Florence Griffith-Joyner, United States....10.52s. 1992 Gwen Torrence, United States....10.82s.

200-Metres

1948 Francina Blankers-Koen, Netherlands ...24.4s. 1952
Majorie Jackson Australia....23.7s. 1956 Betty Cuthbert,
Australia....23.4s. 1960 Wilma Rudoph, United States....24.0s.
1964 Edith McGuire, United States....23.0s. 1968 Irena
Szewinska, Poland....22.5s. 1972 Renate Stecher, E.
Germany....22 40s 1976 Barbel Eckert, E. Germany....22.37s.
1980 Barbel Wockel, E. Germany....22 03s. 1984 Valerie
Brisco-Hooks, United States....21.81s. 1988 Florence
Griffith-Joyner United States....21.34s. 1992 Gwen Torrence,
United States....21.81s.

400-Metres

1964 Betty Cuthbert, Austraha....52s 1968 Colette Besson, France 52s. 1972 Monika Zchrt. E. Germany....51.08s. 1976

Petra Felke on route to the javelin gold in the Seoul Olympics

Irena Szewinska, Poland .. 49.29s, 1980 Maritakoch, F Germany....48.88s, 1984 Valerie Brisco-Hooks, United States....48.83s, 1988 Olga Bryzgina, USSR ...48.65s* 1992 Marie-Jose Perec, France....48.83s,

800-Metres

1928 Lina Radke, Germany. 2m. 16.8s. 1960 Ludinila, Shetasova, USSR....2m. 4.3s. 1964 Ann Packer, Great Britain .2m 1.1s. 1968 Madeline Manning, United States....2m. 0.9s. 1972 Hildegard Falck, W. Germany....1m 58.6s. 1976 Tatyana Kazankina, USSR . .1m 54.94s. 1980 Nadezhda Olizayrenco, USSR....1m. 53.5s. 1984 Doina Melinte, Romania....1ni. 57 6s 1988 Sigrun Wodars, F. Germany.... 1m. 56.10s. 1992 Ellen van Langen, Netherlands....1m. 55.54s.

1,500-Metres

1972 Lyudmila Bragina, USSR....4m 01.4s. 1976 Tatyana Kazankina, USSR....4in. 05.48s. 1980 Tatyana Kazankina, USSR....3m. 56.6s. 1984 Gabriella Dorio, Italy....4m. 03.25s 1988

Paula Ivan, Romania....3m. 53.96s* 1992 Hassiba Boulmerka, Algeria....3m. 55 3s.

3,000-Metres

1984 Maricica Puica, Romania....8.35.96s. 1988 Tatyana Samolenko, USSR....8.26.53s. 1992 Elena Romanova, Unified Team....8.46.04s.

10,000-Metres

1988 Olga Boldarenko, USSR....31m.44.69s. 1992 Derartu Tulu, Ethiopia....31m. 06.02s*

400-Metre Relay

1928 Canada....48 4s. 1932 United States....46.9s. 1936 United States....46.9s. 1948 Netherlands....47.5s 1952 United States....45.9s. 1956 Australia....44.5s. 1960 United States....44.5s.1964 Poland....43.6s. 1968 United States....42.8s 1972 West Germany....42.8ls 1976 East Germany....42 55s. 1980 East Germany ...41.60s* 1984 United States....41.65s. 1988 United States... 41 98s 1992 United States....42.11s.

1,600-Metre Relay

1972 East Germany... 3m. 19.23s. 1976 East Germany 3m... 19.23s. 1980 USSR... 3m. 20 02s 1984 United States....3m. 18.29s. 1988 USSR....3m. 15.18s. 1992 United Team....3m. 20.20s.

100-Metre Hurdles

1972 Annelie Ehrhardt, F. Germany. . 12 59s. 1976 Johanna Schaller, E. Germany....12.77s. 1980 Vera Komisova, USSR... 12.56s 1984 Benita Brown-Fitzgerald, United States. . 12.84s. 1988 Jordanka Donkova, Bulgaria.. .12.38s. 1992 Páraskevi Patoulidou, Grecce — 12 64s.

400-Metre Hurdles

1984 Nawal el Moutawakii, Morocco... 54 61s. 1988 Debra Flintoff-King, Australia.. .53.17s. 1992 Sally Gunnell, Great Britain ...53.23s.

Heptathion

1984 Glynis Nunn, Australia ...6, 390 pts 1988 Jackie Koyner-kersee, United States....7,215 pts 1992 Jackie Joyner Kersee, United States 7,004 pts

High Jump

1928 Ethel Catherwood, Canada....5ft. 2^{1/2}m. 1932 Jean Shilley, United States. .5fT. 5^{1/4}m. 1936 Ibolya Csak, Hungary. .5ft. 3 m. 1948 Alice Coachman, United States .5ft. 6^{1/4}m. 1952 Esther Brand, South Africa .5ft. 5^{1/4}m. 1956 Mildred L. McDaniel, United States. 5ft. 9^{1/4}mn. 1960 Lolanda Balas, Romania ..6ft. 3^{1/4}m. 1964 Lolanda Balas, Romania ...6ft. 2^{1/4}m. 1968 Milosiava Reskova, Czechoslovakia ..5ft. 11^{1/2}m. 1972 Ulriki Meyfarth, W. Germany ...6ft. 4 m. 1976 Rosemarie Ackemann. E. Germany ...6ft. 3^{1/4}m. 1980 Sara Simeoni, Italv....6ft. 5^{1/2}m. 1984 Ulrike Meyfarth, W. Germany ...6ft. 3^{1/4}m. 1980 Sara Simeoni, Italv....6ft. 5^{1/2}m. 1988 Louise Riffer, United States......6ft. 8 in. 1992 Heike Henkel, Germany ...6ft. 7^{1/2}m.

Discus Throw

1928 Helena Konopacka, Poland . 129ft, 11 hain. 1932 Lillian Copeland. United States ...133ft, 2 in. 1936 Gisela Mauermayer, Germany ...156ft, 3 in. 1948 Micheline Ostermeyer France ...137ft, 6 hain. 1952 Nina Romaschkova, USSR ...168ft, 8 in. 1956 Olga Fikotova, Czechoslovakia ...176ft, 1 in. 1960 Nine Ponomareva, USSR ...180ft, 8 hin. 1964 Tamara Press, USSR... 187ft 10 in. 1968 Lia Manohu, Romania ...191ft 2 in. 1972 Fama Melnik, USSR....218ft 7 in. 1976 Evelin Schlaak, E. Germany ...226ft, 4 in. 1980 Evelin Jahl, E. Germany....229ft, 6 in. 1984 Ria Stalman, Netherlands....214ft, 5 in. 1988 Martina Hellmann, E. Germany....237ft, 2 hain. 1992 Maritza Marten, Garcia, Cuba....29ft, 10 in.

Javelin

1932 "Babe" Didrikson, United States... 143ft. 4 in. 1936 Tily Fleischer, Germany... 148ft 2 1/4 in. 1948 Herma Bauma. Austria. ...149ft. 6 in. 1952 Dana Zabina, Czechoslovakia....165ft. 7 in. 1956 Inese Jaunzema, USSR....176ft. 8 in. 1960 Elvira Ozolina, USSR....183ft. 8 in. 1964 Mihaela Penes, Romania.....198ft. 7 1/2 in. 1968 Angela Nemeth, Hungary....198ft 1/2 in. 1972 Ruth Fuchs, E. Germany....209ft. 7 in. 1976 Ruth Fuchs, E. Germany.....216ft. 4 in. 1980 Maria Colon, Cuba....224ft. 5 in. 1984 Tessa



Evelyn Ashford celebrates her 100m victory at the Los Angeles Olympics

Sanderson, Great Britain....228ft. 2 in. 1988 Petra Felke, E. Germany... 245ft.* 1992 Silke Renk, Germany....224ft. 2¹/₂ in.

Shot Put (8lb., 130z.)

1948 Micheline Ostermeyer, France....45ft. 1½in. 1952 Galma Zybina, USSR....50ft. 1¾in. 1956 Tamara Tishkyevich, USSR 54ft. 5 in. 1960 Tamara Press, USSR....56ft. 10 in. 1964 Tamara Press, USSR....59ft. 6½in 1968 Margitta Gunimel, E. Germany ...64ft. 4 in. 1972 Nadezhda Chizova USSR....69ft. 1976 Ivanka Hristova, Bulgaria....69ft. 5¼in. 1980 Ilona Slupianek, E. Germany ...73ft. 6¼in 1984 Claudia Losch, W. Germany....67ft. 2½in 1988 Natalya Lisovskaya, USSR... 72ft. 11½in. 1992 Svetlana Kriveleva, United Team....69ft. 1¼in.

Long Jump

1948 Olga Gyamatı, Hungary....18ft, 8¹/4m. 1952 Yvette Williams, New Zealand....20ft. 5¹/2m. 1956 Elzbieta Krzeskinska, Poland....20ft. 9³/4in. 1960 Vyera Krepkina, USSR....20ft. 10³/4in. 1964 Mary Rand, Great Britain....22ft. 2¹/₂in. 1968 Viorica Viscopoleanu, Romania....22ft 4¹/₂in. 1972 Heidemane Rosendahl, W. Germany 22ft. 3 in. 1976 Angela Voigt F. Germany.....22ft. 3³/₄in. 1980 Talyana Kolpakova, USSR.....23ft. 2 in. 1984 Anisoara Stanciu, Romania....2ft. 10 on. 1988 Jackie Joyner-Kersec, United States ...24ft. 3¹/₂in. 1992 Heike Drechsier, Germany....25ft. 5²/₄in.

Marathon

1984 Joan Benoit, United States, ...2h, 24m, 52s* 1988 Rosa Mota, Portugal....2h, 25m, 40s 1992 Valentina Yegorova United....2h, 32m, 41s,

THE BIGGEST

Multi-talented GWEN TORRENCE is the most hated female athlete in the wol



BY ASHWIN THOMAS

WEN TORRENCE went mad. This was at the '92 Barcelona Olympics. For the first time, in her illustrious career, she failed to be on the winner's podium. This disaster took place in the 100m. At the press conference that she held, a pent up boiling rage crupted. Torrence stated, in front of the world's media, that two out of three medal winners were on drugs. The three medal winners were Gail Devers of the United States (gold), Juliet Cuthbert of Jamaica (silver), and Irina Privalova (pronze). Then she directly accused Devers of taking drugs.

Torrence's charges created an international furore. The medal winners reacted predictably. They asked for proof to substantiate her allegations. Of course, Torrence did not have proof. It was just intuition, and gut feelings that were doing the talking. But then, you don't—accuse people publicly until you have concrete proof.

That is Gwen Torrence for you. She is a very forceful, forthright and honest person. She walks it like she talks it, as they say. She said later, after the Barcelona furore died down, "What bothered me was that people came up to me afterward and said, "This wasn't the place or the time." And I'm like, 'why are you guys afraid? You know there's a problem."

Of course, everybody knows that there is a serious drug problem in athletics. Despite all the stringent tests, the drug users are always one step ahead of the drug testers. The result is that in athletics, there are

Gwen Torrence:the athlete, her counterparts love to hate

BITCH ON TRACK

levertheless, she's a hot-shot for the 100 and 200m gold at the Atlanta Olympics

some world records which are quite impossible to set, unless one has been chemically aided. In women's athletics, Florence Griffith Joyner's sensational world records in the 100m (Time: 10.49sec) and the 200m (Time: 21.34sec), set in 1988, is almost impossible to break. There is a widespread suspicion that Flo-Jo was on steroids when she set those records.

Gwen Torrence confirms this suspicion. "Anybody in their right mind has to wonder," she explains, "there's no way to go from a 10.90 to 10.49 so suddenly. And from a 21.9 to 21.3. It doesn't happen that way. Florence has always been gorgeous, but I felt there was a physical change in her in '88. Now I see her, she has a softer look. You can tell me she's not training hard anymore but facial structures doesn't change like that. She does not have the same look any more."

As for Gwen Torrence, she has the same face through all these years as a top class international sprinter. Simply because she's an avowed opponent of drug use in athletics. As she explains succintly, "When track is over for me, I want to have my kidney and my liver. I don't want to develop some disease because I wanted to win a race."

Without drug use, Gwen Torrence is, at present, the best sprinter in the business. So tar, she has won two Olympic gold medals, three world championship medals and eight national titles. She's had a three-year streak of 49 consecutive victories in the 100m. Since 1990, she has won more World Championship and Olympic medals than any other athlete. At Atlanta, she's a hot favourite for gold in the 100m. She's also very good in the 200m, with a possibility of a gold there. Then, as if



that is not enough, Torrence will run the anchor leg of the 4x100m relay, for which she is known to have a scorching pace. She's also slated to run in the 4x400m relay. What is not so well known is that Torrence is also a world class 400m runner but she doesn't run this event too often. (An aside: despite the furore that she created at Barcelona with her drugs charge, live days later she was on the track, calm and composed and romped home the winner in the 200m.) That gives you an idea of the

Torrence uses the rage within her to bring the best out of her sporting talent

determination and the inner strength that this athlete possesses.

Gwen Torrence grew up poor in California. Her father left the family when she was very young. Her mother looked after the brood of several children. Torrence, when she was young, described herself as an "ugly, skinny, big-nosed kid." The most remarkable thing about her when she was young was that she had



a rage that burned within her. Nobody knows where her rage has come from, least of all, her mother. It is this rage that has propelled her to such tremendous heights.

Initially, Torrence was not interested in track at all. When she was a sophomore in Columbia High, there occurred an event that changed her life. Torrence was walking wih a group of friends. One of them, by the name of Fred Lane, who was the fastest guy on the football team, playfully snatched her pocketbook and began to run across the field. Torrence gave chase although she was wearing high heels and tight jeans. Her friend was fast...very fast, Torrence just ran faster, caught up and brought the guy down. This tableau was watched by the track coach, Ray Bonner.

"She walked Fred Lane down,"
Bonner recalled, "we thought Fred
Lane was the fastest thing since sliced
bread, and she had walked him
down." He approached Torrence; he
told her that she had lots of natural
talent. The coach convinced her to
start training for the college athletic
team. Torrence agreed. The rest is
history. She just went from strength

to strength. Apart from her natural talent, she had a terrific propensity for hard work.

"You'd always see her running—in the gym outside, anywhere," said Henry Harris, a college mate, "you'd see her in the hottest part of the day. training on the track and then you'd see her training later that afternoon. And we'd do, 'Damn, Gwen's goin' somewhere."

Of course, Gwen was going somewhere. But despite her brilliance on the track, she is not at all well-liked by any of the other athletes.

Something about her abrasive nature and straight-talking rubs off the wrong side of people. Said Juliet Cuthbert, "Nobody likes her. Nobody on her own team likes her. She's the biggest bitch in track. I'd like to kick Gwen's butt, I swear. If she says one more thing to me, I will."

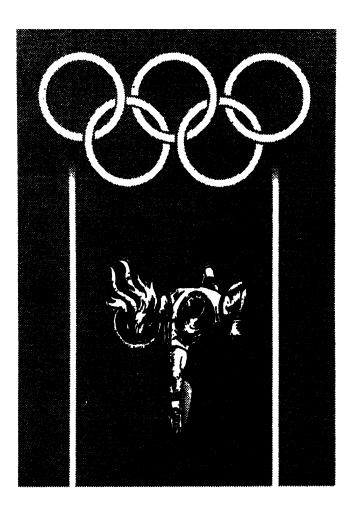
Another example of her unpopularity was revealed later. This was when Torrence was disqualified for crossing lanes in the 200m (this was after she won the 200m with four metres to spare) at the World Athletics Championships at Gothenburg last year. She saw the Jamaican team cheering when it was announced on

Torrence, minutes after she was stripped off her 200m gold medal, for crossing lanes, in the World Athletics championships at Gothenburg

the loudspeaker. In the midst of all the crowd, she noticed Merlene Ottey clapping. That was a painful sight to see. Because, for a long time, she had been a fan of Ottey. "Merlene later called me a cheat," she said, "That hurt me inside."

Torrence has cause for grievance. Few people know that when Katrin Krabbe won the 100 and 200m golds at the '91 World Athletics Championships at Tokyo, Torrence had come second. But when Krabbe tested positive for drugs, after the Championships were over, and her medals stripped, Torrence was not given the gold medals that were justly hers. The reason given was that the positive dope test came after the Championships were over.

Still, life has to go on. Torrence keeps practising assiduously daily, preparing herself for the big event in America. History and current form suggests that Gwen Torrence will be wearing the golden crown once again. Although Juliet Cuthbert, Merlene Ottey, Irina Privalova et all would dearly love it to be otherwise.



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Girls Needed!

HE Board of Control for Cricket in India must provide attractive and beautiful female companions like the top actresses and models to all the eleven or twelve players of the Indian cricket team. They need such girls for relaxation as well as for boosting their own egos.

Then there will be no jealousy among the Indian cricketers against Mohammad Azharuddin due to his having a relationship with Sangeeta Bijlani, who has been his constant companion on the England tour.

Alternatively, India should have a mixed cricket team of six male and six female players selected from among the top Indian actresses and models like Madhuri Dixit, Karishma Kapoor, Urmila Matondkar, Sushmita Sen and Aishwarya Rai.

PINKY DINSHAW MEHTA, Pune.

The New Generation is Here!

HE new generation is here! Just as Stefan Edberg and Henri Leconte bid their adieu, a new generation came of age with Yevgeny Kafelnikov's victory at the French Open. In a high quality tournament, Kafelnikov was an impressive and consistent performer. With his laconic grace, his elegant shot-making, Kafelnikov is truly a thing of beauty and also something of an anachronism, since he plays equally well in singles as well as doubles.

SUSOBHAN SARKAR, Nadia, West Bengal.

Poor Judgement

vacant space was created in the Indian team after Sidhu's departure. Vinod Kambli should have been recalled. As a batsman, he is a left-hander, he has had a lot of experience and above all, the playing conditions are known to him.

C.K.S.JAYANTHI MANIAM.

Tamil Nadu:

Sidhu As Skipper

OMING back to the sordid Sidhu controversy, I want to make this comment, without any sort of lopsided attitude. Navjot Singh Sidhu should be immediately recalled and

appointed skipper of the Indian team. Of course, this is after the tour of England is over.

I think, this would be the most befitting honour for a man who always gave a hundred percent to his side. ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack.

Interesting

Your cover story and freewheeling (Sportsworld19th June) made interesting reading. It's time to change our selectors and the team selection system. Should the selectors be selected solely on a regional basis and should they, in turn, follow the quota system?

It is this malady that has to be corrected, so that incidents like the Sidhu departure do not happen in future.

PRABHA MITI Hyderabad.



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DON'T SACRIFUL THE ELMISTED OR HIS HIRBERNO PERFORMANCE.

EVEN FIRE GODS WILL APPROVE, RUBE HE NO FEELEN CORRESSIONES.

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BORN TO LEAD



Franziska Van Almsick waves to the crowd after winning yet another gold at the European Championships in 93. She has already amassed 11 European golds which remains unparalled

WATER-BABE!

Germany's Franzisca Van Almsick is ready to set the pool on fire in Atlanta. A profile

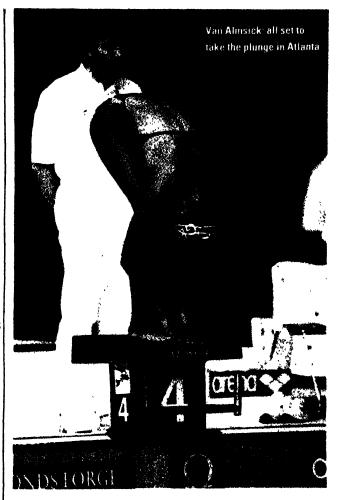
BY K.O. JACOB

HERE is a new epidemic that is raging these days in Germany. Young and old alike have been afflicted by what is referred to as the 'Franzi Fever'. The symptoms are not very visible, but the most common give aways include a faster heartrate when they see a particular face, and a growing allergy towards other German sportspeople. This allergy has taken away the aura from immortals like Steffi Graf and Boris Becker and the halo now rests on Franziska Van Almsick. She is the sportswoman that Germans now relate to, and she is often referred to as the first sportswoman of United Germany. And Van Almsick is the propagator of the dreaded 'Franzi Fever' that other sportspersons have come to loathe.

They come to loathe this syndrome not only because Franziska Van Almsick was getting to be more popular than them, in fact, she was voted the Sportswoman of the Year in 1993 and 1995 by the German Sportswriters Association. The loathing also stemmed from the fact that in a span of just about four years Van Almsick has become a very wealthy sportsperson. No actually, let's make that the richest swimmer in the world. In a country that revered football and tennis this nymph suddenly stole the spotlight from just about all the established sportsmen and women.

Gold medal swimmers in America are considered stars if they rake in about \$200,000 from commercial deals. Van Almsick has already got a tidy \$8 million in her bank account thanks to eight lucrative deals and she is yet to receive one million. A quick calculation will show that she has already earned about ten times more than her swimming compatriots. Van Almsick appears in advertisements that range from German chocolates and bread, she models for renowned clothier Jean Pascali and Arena sportswear, she appears in the advertisement for California Walnut Commission and figures in the Opel car promo that is currently aired in nine European countries and Japan. Her highly photogenic looks and her media friendly personality have made her a hot proposition much to the envy of other sportspersons.

Franziska Van Almsick was born to Bernd Van Almsick, an engineer and Jutta who was a gymnastics coach and a former informant of the dreaded East



German secret police. The Van Almsick family resided just 600 metres of the Berlin Wall and Franziska took to swimming at the early age of five after she saw her elder brother Sebastian train. It was something she did just to be one up on her brother and she later admitted, "I said to myself: what he does, I wanna try as well."

Two years later, after East German sport officials measured her wrists and ankles and drew blood from her earlobes. Van Almsick was entered into GDR's rigorous Olympic training programme. The East Germans at one time dominated the world of swimming—at the Munich Games they won 11 of the 13 gold medals that were there for the taking—and they were more than eager to win back their lost glory. In Van Almsick they saw a future medal hope and the

She's not the look! Van Almso keeps swimmon a hottest majoration

ŧ







East German coaches made sure that she concentrated on her swimming and nothing else.

At her very first Olympic outing at Barcelona, 17-year-old Van Almsick was the youngest in the water for Germany and during the span of the Games had to make four trips to the victory podium. She ended up with a tally of two silver and two bronze medals, a feat which overshadowed the gold medal winning performances of her compatriots. The media rushed to her side and she obliged everyone with that heartwarming smile of hers and quips that made newspaper headlines the world over. Unified Germany's first superstar had arrived!

"I'm convinced there's got to be something special about me—something that I cannot explain," was Van Almsick's simple reasoning of her new found stature. Inspite of everything our protagonist continued to excel in what she had set out to do:swimming. She has the world record for the 200m freestyle which she set in '94 and she also has 11 European gold medals, a total that no one has equalled. Van Almsick has won everything short of an Olympic gold medal, and in Atlanta she will set out to do just that.

Van Almsick is the favourite in Atlanta to win the gold in the 200m freestyle, and she will also compete in the relays and the 100m freestyle. However, in the buildup to the Olympics, Van Almsick had a disastrous

time. She swam very poorly in the first two days of the qualifiers and almost missed out on getting herself a ticket to the Games. She almost failed in the 100m freestyle, blew up her chances in the 400m, but on the third and final day she clocked up a time of 1:58.88 in the 200m freestyle—which remains the world's best in 1996 till date. It surely was a promise of things to come in the future.

Van Almsick's critics have always maintained that she was more the product of sheer marketing hype and that she had not contributed much to world swimming. But nobody doubts that she has loads of potential and that there is still a lot of swimming left in the 21-year-old. As Michael Lohberg, a German expat who coached her in America last year said, "She kicks one leg and goes three metres. It sounds weird, but she's as close to a fish as you can get." Now we know why many of her opponents are so petrified about taking to the water with her.

On the flip side, however, the hype and the success have taken a toll on the prodigy as life becomes a little boring and predictable. As Van Almsick herselt admitted recently, "I want to meet Boris Becker. No problem. Shopping in New York? I just go. Life loses part of its appeal."

ls Franziska Van Almsick complaining?

OLYMPIC QUIZ

COLORSPORT

OUESTIONS

The modern
Olympic motto of
'Citius, Altius,
Fortius' is based on
which ancient Greek
motto?

What was unique about Arrachion's victory in the ancient Olympics?

In ancient Greece, who were known as 'Idiotai?'

Orsippos, a winner in the ancient Olympics has a unique 'first' to his name? What is it?

Before the start of every game in the ancient Olympics, the athletes used to offer a special prayer to Zeus. What did they ask for?

Why were the Olympics originally held?

The five rings of the Olympic flag symbolises the five continents. From where was this graphic taken?

What was adopted at Baron Pierre de Coubertin's suggestion at the International Congress for the 'Study and

8

Answer to Q. No.7

propogation of the principles of amateurism' on June 23, 1894?

In which Olympic Games were five torches, instead of one, arrive at the stadium for the opening ceremony?

Besides winning a gold in the Munich Olympics, what innovation did Anatoly Bondrachuk make in his sport?

: Who is the first Indian woman to reach the semis of an Olympic event?

At the Seoul Olympics, how did India get into the medals list (for a few minutes), even though India did not win a single medal?



At the 1900 Paris Games, women were allowed to participate for the first time in two events. Which were they?

In the 1896 Olympic Games, who was the first person to win the gold medal?

Answer to Q. No.11

The first ever 'sex test' was conducted at the 1936 Berlin Olympics on a sprinter named Helen Stephens. What procedure was used to carry out the test?

In which Olympic Games were the innovations like the athletic village, the photo-finish camera, the three tiered victory stand and the medal presentation to be held on the same day as the final is run, introduced for the first time?

ANSWERS

1. Kalos Kagothos. It means 'purification of body, mind and soul through pure and healthy competition.'

2.He was declared the winner after he died in the bout. His corpse was crowned.

3.The non-athletes. The English word, 'Idiot' is derived from this word.

4.He was the first athlete to run naked.

5. Victory or Death.

6.It was held to entertain the Greek gods on Mt.Olympus.

7.It was taken from the five-ringed symbol on the altar of the Oracle at Delphi, in Greece.

8. The motto of the Olympics, 'Citius, Altius, Fortius.'

9.The 1980 Olympic Games.

10.He devised the three-turn theory i.e. taking three turns before the hammer throw.

11. Shiriy Wilson, in the 800m at the '84 Los Angeles Olympics.

12.Indonesia (INA) did win a medal. This got

mixed up with India (IND). The mistake was soon corrected.

13.Golf and tennis.

14. None. Because at the

time, the winners were presented with a silver medal and a crown of olive branches.

15.She had to disrobe to prove that she was a woman.

16.The 1932 Los Angeles Games.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



BISWAJIT SALKIA, C/O MR. A.SALKIA, B.R.ROAD, PANIGAON, NAGAON - 782 001. ASSAM.

ATCHING the Euro Cup final on TV, one was struck by the courage and determination of Germany. They never seemed to give up at any stage. When Patrik Berger scored for Czechoslovakia through a penalty, you could see the collective shifting of gears of the entire German team. This was exemplified by the way manager Berti Vogts got up from his seat and began making gestures to his team, from the sidelines. His eyes, a clear, deep blue, seemed to urge his players on with a passionate intensity.

The German players began to play even more harder. They didn't seem at all discouraged that they were one goal down. They just put their heads down and went for the Czech's jugular. The result: Germany equalised soon. You could sense the Czechs wilting against the determination of the Germans. They did not have the same fire as the Germans. In the end, the Germans were deserving winners although their team, except for Klinsmann and Sammer, did not boast of outstanding individual talents.

It explains one thing: the triumph of the human spirit. If you don't give up in the mind, there is no force on earth that can defeat you. It is a lesson we Indians have to learn. How many times in a match, especially in a cricket game, when two-three quick wickets fall, you can sense the collective surrender of the entire team. It is such a frustrating sight to see. One has the feeling that, in the coming Olympic Games, we will behave in the same

Giving up, not fighting back, seems to be our national trait. We do not have the German's sense of pride and love for their country. Well, how can we have this pride and never-say-die spirit when we have politicians busy propagating narrow caste divisions, busy-propagating theories that one community is by far the better and the strongest among the million communities that comprise the mosaic called India?

Perhaps Sourav Ganguly's case is a rare example of the never-say-die spirit in our country. This young lad's



Sourav Ganguly: Maharaj Ki Jai Ho

rise to international stature is the most mysterious: For years, he had been ignored by the national selectors. The local media ridiculed his batting and his talent. He was selected for this England tour through the infamous quota system. That gave rise to a lot of aniggering. Now, this young cricketer has come good. He has shown a remarkable display of technique and mental temperament. How did this happen? Surely, this development has not happened overnight.

It does point once again to our greatest weakness: our inability to nurture talent from a seed to an oak tree. We seem impatient with people who are starting out. We want brilliant performances from the very first match that a player plays. That is, of course, impossible. The moment a player performs poorly, he is immediately dropped, irrespective of whether he has the talent or not.

To continue with Sourav Ganguly's case. On his maiden tour to Australia, he did not perform well. Those who saw him there said that he looked fazed out. Yet, he had the talent. But our selectors were not patient enough | Shevlin Sebastian

to help develop that talent. The result: Sourav Ganguly was sidelined for so long. It took him quite some time and enormous individual effort to develop his mental strength and skill. But, in the process, he had to go through a lot of unnecessary humiliation and pain.

Sourav Ganguly's greatest danger at present is not going to come on the cricket pitch. Rather, it is going to come at the hands of the media. The Bengal media has waited with bated breath for Souray to come back from England. After such a long time, Bengal has an authentic hero. But the danger with us in the media is that we will go overboard. Too much adulation can destroy a young talent just as too much criticism. This has been the weakness of the Indian media for so long. When people perform poorly, we criticise them mercilessly. As soon as somebody gives a triumphant performance abroad, there is an overdose of adulation. Souray Ganguly will need a lot of mental strength to come to terms with it.

The moment he believes all those glowing press notices that he receives. that is the moment when his game is going to fall away. Praise is a double-edged sword. On the one hand it is good for one's confidence. On the other hand, if you believe in al that you read and hear, a sense of complacency creeps in. You stop practising. You start thinking that you are God's greatest gift to Bengal and Indian cricket. It is then that the decline begins. Sourav Ganguly should be alive to this danger.

Meanwhile, this is the question that we Indians have to face: when are we going to mature as a people? When are we going to become a great nation ? It's tragic that a nation endowed with so much of talent and depth, is still having to play third, fourth and fifth fiddle on the international stage in every sphere of life. All because our attitudes, our philosophy, our ideas are so narrow minded, regional. parochial and out-dated and have no basis in merit and performance.

Come on India, go for gold!



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Statement and the statement of the state

26

THE PRESSURE IS GONNA GET YOU!

With the large scale commercialisation of sport, athletes have to win at all costs

30

STEELY DAN!

Dan O'Brien, the world record holder in the decathlon is the favourite for the Olympic gold

56

"OH CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN"

Forlorn, aloof and distant from a young side, Mohammad Azharuddin looked woefully out of touch both as captain and a player







A

BLACK POWER!

8

NOUREDDINE MORCELI: ALGERIA'S GOLDEN HOPE

12

FU MINGXIA: DIVING TO GLORY

22

DO YOU KNOW FRANKIE FREDRICKS?*

34

STEVE WONDERS!

36

FELIX SAVON: SMASH HIT

38

OLD IS GOLD

43

VITALY SCHERBO: REVITALISED

52

DICKY BIRD: THE UMPIRE STRIKES BACK

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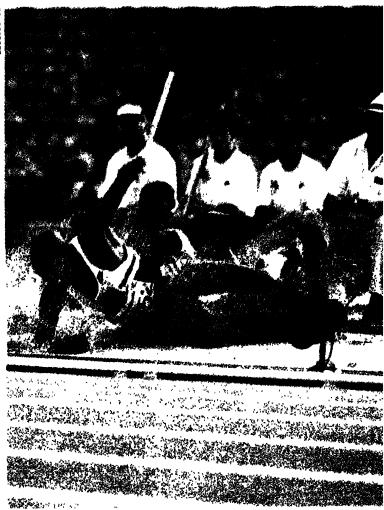
COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY PROFESSIONAL SPORT AND COLORSPORT



BLACK POWER!

If you're talking about high profile sports like basketball, football, baseball, boxing and athletics, you're talking about the dominance of the Black athlete. The following case study explains this phenomenon





A symbol of Black sporting supremacy, high jumper Mike Powell portrays the goals...

BY MOHINDER SINGH

ANY people all over the world are intrigued at the disproportionately

high presence of top black athletes in some world sports. This is particularly noticeable during the Olympics, specially in the track events—ever since Jesse Owens won four golds in the 1936 Olympics, and Carl Lewis repeated the feat in 1992.

The dominance of Black athletes is also largely

prevalent in American sport. This is made all the more significant if one were to consider the fact that blacks in America form only 12 per cent of the total U.S. population. Yet they dominate boxing in the heavier weight divisions, form 75 per cent of the players making National Basketball

...the determination

Association rosters (NBA, which is the professional league), and nearly 60 per cent of the players in the National Football League (NFL, or American football).

The dominance of Blacks has also given rise to the notion that Blacks as a rule are 'natural' athletes, physically superior to athletes from other groups. Some experts subscribe to the view that Blacks are made up of better genetic material; black athletes being the offspring of the "fittest" slaves who were able to survive the trip from Africa in the horrible holds of the slave ships.

representation and the quality of black performance have any demonstrable relationship to race-linked genetic characteristics. All the experts who have conducted these studies and attempting to demonstrate such a relationship have failed to

establish a credible link.
Inbreeding between
whites and blacks, specially
in America has been
extensive. Anyway, the
factors determining the
calibre of sports
performance are so
complex and disparate as to
render absurd any attempt
to trace athletic excellence

to a single biological feature. All in all, it is now deemed naive to assume that blacks are superior due to their overall genetic makeup.

The most plausible explanation for black athletic success seems to be more environmental—cultural





...the satisfaction...

Others believe blacks are innately agile as runners, and this has been amply illustrated by the successes of the long distance African runners from Kenya and Ethiopia.

A good deal of research has since been conducted to determine whether the level of black

The

dominance of black athletes is also largely prevalent in American sport. This is made all the more significant if one were to consider the fact that blacks in America form only 12 percent of the total U.S population

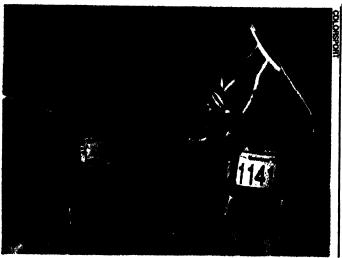
..and the attitude of the Black

and social factors—than biological. That also explains the disproportionately high number of talented black athletes in a few sports, to their total exclusion in most others, noticeably swimming, cycling, shooting, rowing,

gymnastics, winter sports, ice hockey, tennis and golf.

The social and cultural factors presumed to be responsible for black excellence in some selected sports are made out like this.

Unlike white children, who see many different potential role models, black children tend to model themselves after the black athlete—the one prevalent and positive black success figure they

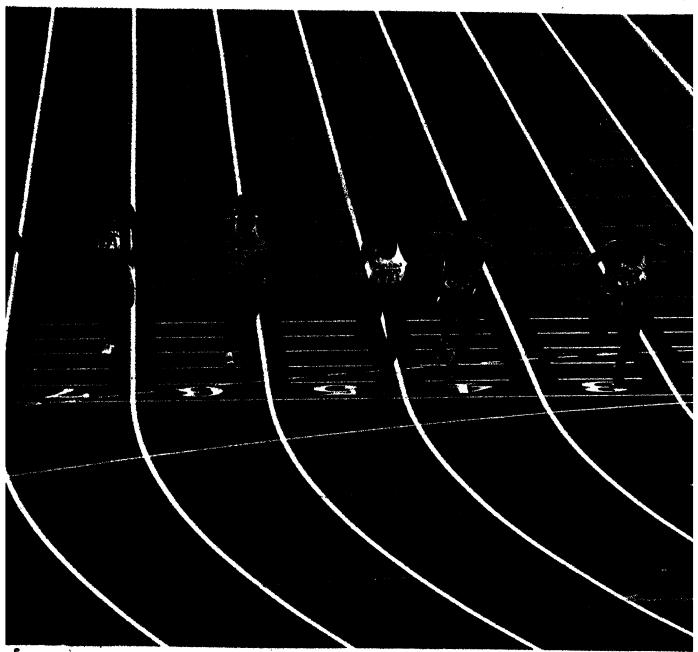


Stamine and agility is the hallmark of the Blacks from the African continent

are exposed to through the media.

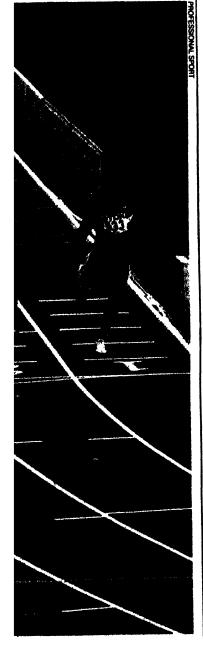
The black family and the black community tend to reward athletic achievement much earlier than other activities. This lures more of their youngsters into sports-career aspirations.

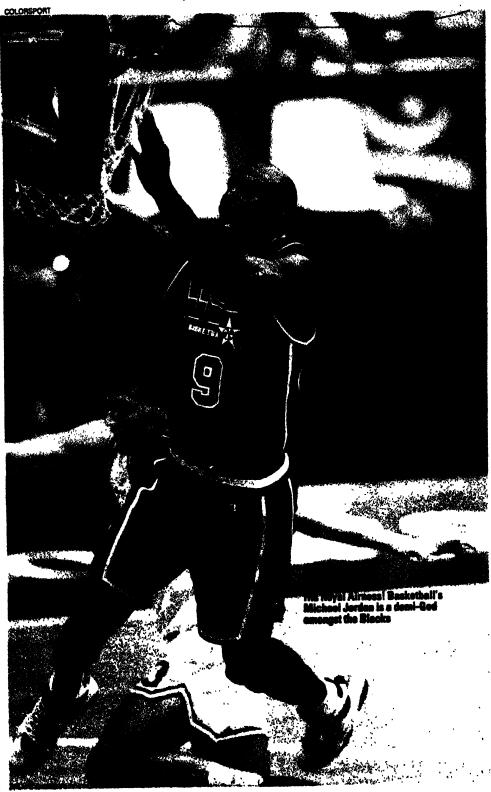
Because most American



sports activities are still devoid of any significant black presence, the overwhelming majority of aspiring black athletes emulate established black role models and seek careers in only four or five sports namely, basketball, football, baseball, boxing and track.

Nationwide, independent scouts, for a fee, search out talented but academically "high-risk" black athletes for various





junior colleges wanting good sports teams. It's another matter that of those blacks awarded collegiate athletic scholarships, nearly 70 per cent never graduate from college. And those graduating are mostly in physical-education degrees or in majors created specifically to cater to the athletes. That way, their college years are

mostly devoted to sports, with sadly little to show in the way of academic advancement. Still, as long as you're watching them on TV, Black is beautiful!

And highly successful

THE ACEMAKER!



Noureddine Morceli is a definite winner in the 1500m. The rest are just tourists

BY WILLIAM RHODES

AY back in 1977, a seven-year-old sitting in his cramped family home in Tenes, a small fishing port in Algeria, watched wide eyed as his elder brother represented Africa in the 1,500m in the World Cup. The race was eventually won by the great Steve Ovett, but the African athlete finished fourth in the event with a timing of 3:36.26. Seven-year-old Noureddine Morceli's imagination was fired by brother Abderahmane's performance and he decided that he was going to follow in his brother's footsteps. His aim was simple: to be the best in the business.

When Morceli made up his mind no one was more delighted than his brother Abderahmane. He put all his experience behind his younger brother's training and by the time Morceli was 13, he was running seven kilometres four times a week along the beach in Tenes or in the nearby Sidi-Merouane hills. Abderahmane was sure that Morceli would surpass the heights that he had reached and so pushed and goaded his brother in their endurance training programe. As Morceli recalls, "Abderahmane was very interested in me becoming a runner. He pushed me very hard. He also made me starve so that I did not

Morceli wins the 1,500m at Gothenburg. He is surely the fevourite for that distance in Atlanta

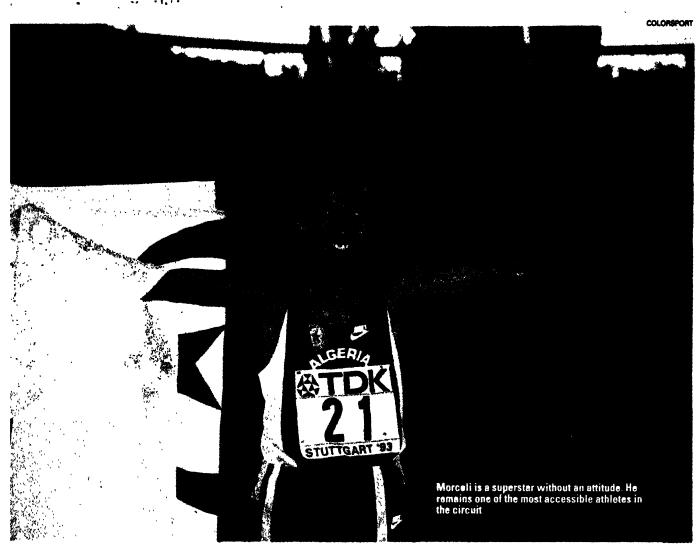
1991...Tokyo. Having won his first world title, Morceli pays tribute to the gods get fat."

There was another aspect that must have led Morceli to torture his body like he had never done before, and that was the financial bounty that awaited him if he made a name for himself in the athletics arena. The reasonable success that Abderahmane enjoyed in athletics was incidental in the family moving out from their cramped home in Tenes and into a smart, rent-free house. Morceli had realised very early in life that success was the key to fame and money and he was determined that he would have lots of both.

Just after a year or so of persevering. Morceli and Abderahmane decided that it was time to enter the big league....they entered in some warmup races, while at the same time remaining totally focussed on the big event....The World Championships in Tokyo in 1991. The stage was set for the athletics world to herald in a new superstar into their midst. Noureddine Morceli was ready to make history and he succeeded in winning his first world title. With the focus of the whole world on him Morceli sunk to his knees, raised his hands and looked up at the skies in supplication. The legend of Noureddine Morceli was born on that day.

With a world title under his belt, the offers began pouring in for Morceli and he realised his potential and the money there was for the making. He went on to hire an Algerian attorney, Amar Brahmia as his manager and together they set out to make Morceli the hottest selling force in athletics. Aiding them of course was the fact that Morceli kept breaking records with consummate ease, but more importantly Morceli's persona made sure that he remained in the news and was everyone's favourite athlete. Morceli's soft spoken nature, his ability to communicate in several languages and his willingness to give time to any member of the media who wanted to interview him made him an ideal sportsman.





There was also the fact that Morceli is a deeply religious man, a devout Muslim, who read the Koran, praved five times a day and observed Ramadan the 30-day-long fast from dawn to dusk. In fact after winning his first world title Morceli said, "I believe in God. He is the secret of my success." Many athletes had made the same utterance, but none did so with as much conviction as Morceli. All this went down very well with the natives of Algeria which is a Muslim country. He was the favourite of all the mothers in the African countries who wanted their sons to emulate Morceli. The legend of Morceli was thus being nurtured.

Today Noureddine Morceli not only remains the finest middle distance runner of our times, he is probably the best businessman in the sport. He

knows his value and insists on being paid top dollar: an appearance fee of \$80,000 per race is a suitable illustration of this statement. At the same time, he makes sure that the money invested on him does not go to waste, he puts in his best in all the races he competes in. The fact that till July '95 Morceli held the world records in the 1,500m (3:28.82), the mile (3:44.30), 3,000m (7:25.11) and the 2,000m (4:47.88) is a case in point.

Yet, there is one serious flaw in Morceli's athletic career till date, and that is the absence of an Olympic gold medal. He went in as the favourite for the 1,500m at Barcelona but did not finish creditably. Morceli's critics immmediately went to town on this issue saying that an Olympic gold was not motivation enough for Morceli; there had to be a monetary benefit if

he was to fire on all cylinders. Morceli had proved it earlier in his career that he did not race for the moolah.

At the end of the '91 season,
Morceli turned down a \$ 1 million
incentive for a mile world record in
Jakarta because he needed a break
after a heavy season. But after the
Olympic debacle when everyone was
baying for his blood, Morceli decided
to keep quiet knowing fully well that
the chance to compete in another
Olympics would be his in just four
years time.

The time has finally come. Morceli goes to Atlanta once again as the favourite to win the gold in the 1,500m, an event where he has remained unbeaten in the past four years. It is redemption time for Noureddine Morceli. It is also the time for the legend of Morceli to blossom into its brilliance.

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MAN, MACHINE AND NATURE EXPERIES EMARCHONE, THE NEW YORKING RNG.



China's diving proday, 191 MDNGXIA is going for one last fling with greatness

Atlanta 1996

tiny little girl belonging to a family of the labour clais in Wuhan was never given the opportunity of a happy childhood, as China's communist, policies did not subscribe to the theory of littles and pleasure. Which is attliably wiry Pu Mingota, the protagonist of this piece was a trille and in her formation years. But inspite the large managed contactly had little and little managed contactly best her succession become any pleasure.

world diving champion. This is the end result of a champion who, from the age of eight, was inducted into a sports school which is part of China's stringent sports programme.

Could anyone believe that this tiny, talented girl would one day become a world champion in the 10 metre high platform diving? At least no one could gauge Mingria's posential at that tender age when she was compulsorily made to dive frequently and hauled up from the pool, each time by a cord tied around her waist sheing practise sessions. The tiny

profigy had to go through the rigority for long spells but it did her a world of good. She was a sensation and this was clearly visible later when she began to win laurels at national tournaments.

Fu Mingria was performing so well that the selectors inducted her into the national diving team in 1989. In fact, she was the youngest diver so come to the limelight so soon. She made her international debut in 1990 at she US Open before capturing her first world title in the Goodwill Games at Seattle.



It may be recalled that in April 1996, prior to the Canadian International Diving Championships, Mingxia unfortunately developed high lever. Her then coach, Yu Feng became anxious and shaky and had to muster enough courage to ask his ward if she could still compete. To his surprise Mingxia nodded in the affirmative. She not only participated but in a burst of inspiration picked up a silver in the women's platform

4 14

diving.

Mingxia's performance took her to the top of her sport. Success and failure are two things which every athlete experiences and the Chinese girl was no exception to the rule. But if one has the grit and perseverance, the dedication and determination, then any sportsperson can overcome all the obstacles and look up triumphantly. And Fu had all these qualities, to say the least.

January 4, 1991 was a red letter day for China. Because on that particular day that country won its first ever gold medal at the World Aquatic Championships at Perth. And that glorious moment was captured by the small, fragile yet graceful as a bird 12-year-old Pu Mingxia. People claim

that her's was the most brilliant, archievement at such a tender age—and winning the platform divinitile inspite of the degree of difficulty being higher than that of her fellow competitors, initially, no one gave Mingxia any attention for she had intelleractors wrong. She put all her four years of rigour into practice...the tiny frame executed a variety of somersaults and twists with perfection.

Her adolescent countenance showed nerves of steel and a hard concompetitor's attitude. Her race for the gold was rather dramatic. Her first dive landed her a second place but the subsequent attempt saw her position plummet to 8th in the overall rankings. Having recovered courageously, her third dive put her back to the second place and two points short of her leading compatriot Xu Yamnei. Fu then realised that she could fly higher than the rest. And she did. She soared to new heights, And when she finally stood on the victory podium with a smiling face, the crowt roared with appreciation. Fu Mingria had become the "Little Swallow", Shi had become the youngest champlon in the history of world platform diving

Mingma was all set for the gold at Barcelona. There was going to be light doubt about that. She had no rivals to threaten her in her pet event... extra Pina who suddenly came updated bright idea of disbarring 13 wear that bright idea of disbarring 13 wear that bright idea of disbarring 13 wear that with the excuse of protecting the with the excuse of protecting the many risks. The move was repoted the American and European hibbias to the Asians vehemently opposed such a three light was all set to win the 1962 Games old.

She did. And by virtue of that the becomes the wind that at Atlanta. No that Mingxia wanted to go to these, that Mingxia wanted to go to these. She had served China with distinction and evaluated to private academics. But will the authorities answer her wishes which if the transmission and more mid.

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MPIC

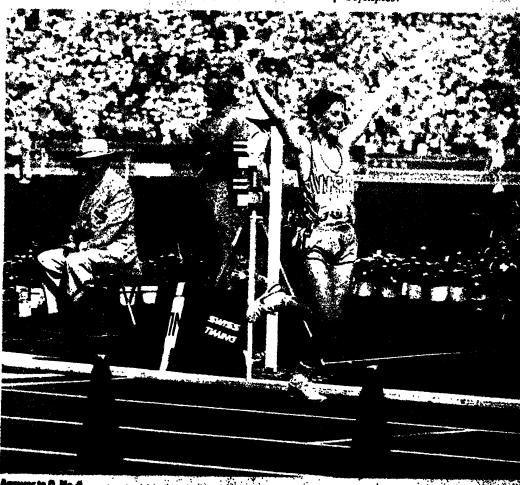
ESTIONS

- For what was the Olympic flag designed?
- Which Olympic ∠ • 100m champion was sentenced to imprisonment on charges of narcotic trading?
- An innovation at the . closing ceremony of the Olympic Games took place. That was when it was decided to let all the athletes march together, instead of by nation, as a symbol of global unity. When did this happen for the first time?
- Who presented an olive branch from the sacred grove at Olympia to Hitler in the 1936 Berlin Games?
- There was something > . special about Elinda Voster's participation in the '92 Barcelona Games. What was it?
- In what way was the O . hockey tournament, held in the 1928 **Amsterdam Olympics** unique?
- Emile Jacques is regarded



as the father of which modern Olympic event?

- Switzerland, known 8 for its neutrality, once boycotted the Olympic Games. Which Games was it and why?
- Who was the winner « of the women's marathon in the year that it was introduced in the Olympics?







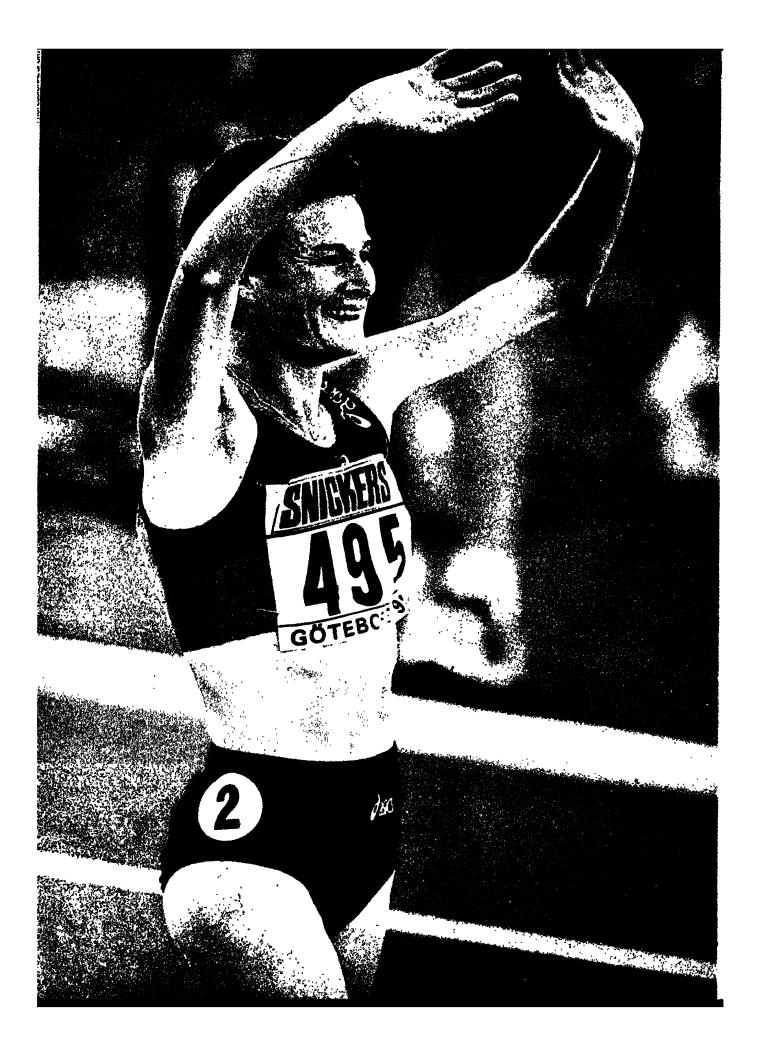
ANSWERS

- 1. To mark the 20th anniversary of the rebirth of the Olympics
- 2. Bob Hayes, the 1964 gold medallist
- 3 The 1956 Olympics
- **4.** Spiridon Louis the winner of the marathon in the 1896 Games
- **5** She became the first South African to participate in an Olympic event after the ban on that country was lifted
- **6.** The tournament was played two months before the rest of the events started
- 7. Rhythmic gymnastics
- 8 The 1956 Melbourne Games They boycotted the Games in protest against the Soviet invasion of Hungary
- 9. Joan Benoit in the 1984 L A Games
- 10. Polygrass
- 11. 1900 Paris Olympics
- 12. "Just to make history"
- 13. Forrest Smithson

Annuaria A Na G

- A new surface
 was introduced in
 the hockey tournament at
 the 1980 Moscow
 Olympics. What was it?
- When was water polo introduced as an Olympic event?
- 12. What reason did Abebe Bikila give, for running barefeet, on his way to win the marathon gold in the 1960 Rome Olympics?
- The winner of the . 110m hurdies at the 1908 Olympic Games ran the entire race while carrying the Bible in his left hand as a mark of protest against athletics being staged on the Sabbath. Who was this religious hurdler?

Compiled by Neva Kanta Baishya, Guwahati





BELLE-FAST

Ireland's SONIA SULLIVAN, the world champion, is hoping to win gold in the middle distance events. The question is: will the Chinese runners act as a spoke in her wheel?

AN Sonia Sullivan defeat the Chinese runners? That was the question uppermost in the mind of most track aficionados as they watched her run the 3000m race in Nice, before the Olympics.

In that race, she ran beautifully. For the most part, she lay behind Julia Vaquero of Spain. Vaquero went into the lead from the start, but Sonia Sullivan tucked in neatly behind her. Right through the race, that was the set pattern. Vaquero in front; Sullivan in second place. But Vaquero did not look comfortable at all. She was huffing and puffing; she was breathing harshly through her mouth; her leg muscles were straining as she struggled to keep a fast pace. In contrast, Sullivan, taller, long-limbed, relaxed, ran with a fluid ease that made a mockery of Vaquero's effort.

The bell rang for the last lap. It was then that Sonia Sullivan made her move. She easily pressed the accelerator and swept past Vaquero. The Spaniard had nothing in reserve. She began to fade away. Sullivan, on the other hand, went faster and faster. When she reached the home stretch, whatever challenge that could have existed, was, more or less, over. There was daylight between her and the other runners. Sullivan had run the fastest 3000m this year. Her time: 8:35.42. Although—she told reporters after the race, she was slowing down as she reached the tape.

Sullivan has been undefeated this season. She's won eight races on the trot. She's hoping to win two gold medals at the Olympic Games. The question is, will she be able to do it? Her home town of Cobh, Co Cork in Ireland firmly believes that she can do it. Although Ireland has had only one Olympic gold medallist in 40 years. That was when Ron Delany won the 1500m gold in the '56 Melbourne Olympics. The expectations are very high in Ireland.

But Sonia Sullivan does not live in Cobh any more. Simply because, in such a small town, it's not possible to train in peace. "When I go running," she explains, "people wind down their windows, waving and beeping their horns when I go for a run." At present, she lives in Teddington in England. People do not know her there at all. She enjoys the obscurity. It helps her to concentrate on her training; the Chinese, after all, are still a threat.

Ever since they burst on the world stage, with a stunning performance in the '93 World Athletics Championships at Stuttgart, the Chinese have become a major force. In Stuttgart, Sonia Sullivan was supposed to win the golds in both the 1500m and 3000m. Instead, she ended up with a silver in the 1500m and came in fourth in the latter race. The Western athletes cried foul. They said that the Chinese were on drugs. But Sullivan did not go public with any condemnation although she may have had reservations. Instead, the Chinese opened her mind to the possibilities that women could achieve in the middle distance events. "I had to readjust the values I had in numbers. They made me set different targets in training."

One result was that, in 1994, she set an European record for the 3000m, eclipsing the 8:22.62 sec run by Tatyana Kazankina in 1984. Said Sullivan, "That 8:22 seemed impossible the year before the Chinese came along."

Sullivan continued this good run, when in 1995, she won the 5000m title at the World Athletics Championships in Gothenburg. Although, one wonders whether she would have won it, if the Chinese had participated. Her performance during the whole of the 1995 season won her the vote of the Number 1 Woman Athlete of the Year.

But that was 1995. This is 1996. This is the Olympic Year. By the time you read this, you will know whether Sonia Sullivan will be able to bury the Chinese threat at Atlanta and win the gold medal.

P.V.Isaac



Ireland's Sonia Sullivan waves to the crowd after she won the gold in the 5000m at the World Athletics Championships in Gothenburg last year

UV OR NOT UV

Sports vision has made rapid progress in the field of sports medicine

WHEN Bausch & Lomb's Olympic Vision Centre (OVC) debuted at the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, only a small percentage of the world's eyecare professionals were familiar with sports vision as a specialty area.

But in just four short years, sports vision has become the new star of sports medicine—widely recognised by both the medical profession—and the athletic world as a key to the improvement of performance for both world-class and weekend athletes.

OVC GAINS PROMINENCE

As sports vision has gained international prominence, so has the OVC. After screening more than 1000 Olympic athletes during three successive Games at Albertville, Barcelona, and Lillehammer, the OVC has become an integral part of the Olympic experience. The OVC has returned to the Olympic Village at the Atlanta Games at the request of the International Olympic Committee.

"The OVC started out as Bausch & Lomb's 'grand experiment'—no one had ever undertaken such a comprehensive study of the effect of vision in sports performance," said Dr. Hemanth Paul, General Manager (Professional Services), Bausch & Lomb India. "With the work we have done at the last three Olympic Games,

we have proved that athletic performance is closely tied to vision, and the OVC has dramatically raised the world's awareness of the importance of sports vision."

"Data generated from the OVC will serve as a benchmark to compare athletes at various levels—from the elite Olympic athlete to the weekend warrior," explained Dr. Paul. "The OVC has also served an important role as a training ground for eye doctors interested in learning more about sports vision."

ONLY FACILITY OF ITS KIND

New database software programs, coupled with expanded state-of-the-art computerised vision screening tools made the OVC at the Atlanta Games this summer the most comprehensive and sophisticated facility of its kind anywhere. Each of the anticipated 500 to 1000 Olympic athletes screened received an instant profile of his or her sport-vision performance. In addition, the athletes got a complete analysis of their results compared with those of other team members and Olympians as a whole. "In Atlanta, we have, for the first time, accumulated enough data from past Olympics to present statistically reliable comparisons on the relationship between sports vision and elite athletic performance," said

Dr Paul. "With the 1996 Games, the OVC has made the leap from an experimental study to a legitimate sports medicine screening tool."

STRENGTHENING WITH EYE-CARE PROFESSIONALS

Besides providing valuable information for athletes, coaches and trainers, the OVC has strengthened ties between eyecare professionals and Bausch & Lomb. Almost 85 per cent of Olympic athletes tested said their choice for vision correction during sports activity is the contact lens.

"Thanks to the OVC, we have successfully reinforced the sports performance benefits of contact lenses to the consumer," said Dr. Hemanth Paul.

Besides the hundreds of eye doctors who have volunteered to screen Olympic athletes in the OVC, thousands of other eyecare professionals have been exposed to the centre through news accounts in the general media, as well as through data results published in prominent professional journals in the

United States, Japan, Europe, South America and Australia.

A tribute to the legends from the world's No.1 eye care company.









BAUSCH & LOMB

Official Sponger

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QUESTIONS

His wife has represented the country in women's cricket. His father also played cricket for the country and was the Chairman of the Cricket Board. Two of his brothers have also played for their country. Name this cricketer?

Who gave Kapil Dev the nickname, the 'Haryana Hurricane?'

Only one batsman has hit a century on debut in the Ranji, Duleep and Irani Trophies. Name the player?

Which great cricketer was known as the 'Black Bradman'?

Which two cricketers starred in the film, 'Kabhi AjnabeThe'?

The person who was the non-striker when Sunil Gavaskar got his first run in Test cricket was a commentator when Gavaskar crossed the historic 10,000 mark. Who is he?

> Who was the first Indian cricketer to

Answer to Q. N

have been honoured by Wisden?

If the umpire 🦥 miscounts and a bastman gets out on the seventh ball of a six-ball over, can he be recalled?

Which top tennis pro's mother was playing tennis a mere

twelve hours before her daughter was born?

Who does Navratilova want to be in her next life?

On Jennifer Capriati's request, which filmstar watched her play at the 1990 U.S.Open?





ANSWERS

- 1. Richard Hadlee.
- 2. Guinness Book Of World Records.
- 3. Sachin Tendulkar.
- 4. George Headley of the West Indies.
- 5. Syed Kirmani and Sandip Patil.
- 6. Ashok Mankad.
- 7. Maharaja K.S. Ranjitsinhji in 1896-97.
- & No.
- 9. Jennifer Capriati.
- 10. Michael Jackson.
- 11. Tom Cruise.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



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BY WILLIAM RHODES

ELL after the Olympics in Atlanta are over, sports writers all over the world could be writing glorious tributes about one single athlete. Yes, you do get to guess who this athlete could well be. And no, it ain't the Carl Lewises, or the Christies or the Michael Johnsons. Our protagonist is, in all probability, going to be a highly unsung hero but nevertheless, one who has been doing consistent service in athletics for the tiny little African country called Namibia that he represents. His name?

Frankie Fredericks.

It is probably the simplest way to introduce an Olympic champion. It would have passed muster with Fredericks himself. Modest and humble to a fault. Fredericks will be the last on earth to tell you that according to current form, he may well be on the right track to capture an Olympic double in the 100 and 200 metre sprints. In the course of doing so, he could create history by becoming the first African to capture an Olympic sprint title.

But Fredericks will not tell you all that. It just goes against his personal principles. He will also perhaps downplay the fact that in the Bislett Games in Oslo, Fredericks managed to exorcise the ghost of Michael Johnson, thereby doing the other 200 metre runners in the world a big lavour. A time had come when Michael Johnson was considered invincible in the 200 metres (if there is a word that can replace 'invincible', we haven't found it yet), but what Fredericks did that night in Oslo could

FRANKIE FREDERICKS

YOU KNOW HIM?

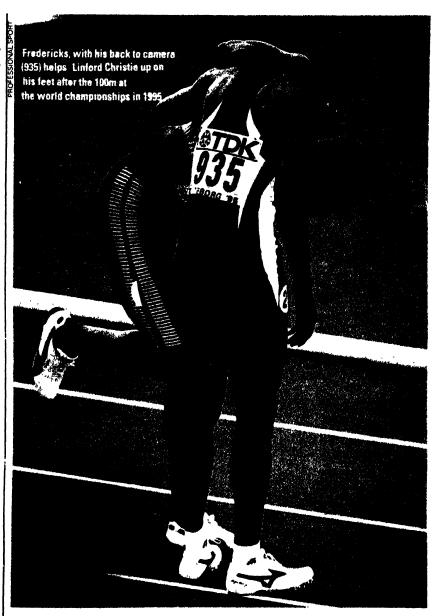
Talented sprinter FRANKIE FREDERICKS might just set Atlanta on fire

well be termed as a humbling experience.

By any form of imagination, the line up for the 200 metres in Oslo had to be termed as intimidating. And when the runners stopped the clock, it could also be tagged as the most thrilling sprint race ever witnessed. Running against a headwind, Fredericks and Johnson dueled with each other and finally recorded times which almost sent the dope control guys running out of their tents. The 200 metres is not a gentle race. It is the most cruel of the sprints, run over a fast time around inhuman bends and sometimes against a swirling wind. At the end of it all, the runners stopped the clock with Frdericks first (19.82 secs) and Johnson a humble second (19.85 secs).

The defeat obviously exacted a heavy toll on Michael Johnson, who was undefeated in 38 200 metres races, which is precisely why 'Team Johnson' went ahead and launched a damage limitation exercise in order to downplay the defeat. But what kind of excuses do you offer against a guy like Fredericks who, just a week ago, timed the fastest 100 metres ever in 9.86 seconds and a lifetime 200 metres best? The defeat inflicted on Johnson went a long way in the psychological war between the sprinters. It also managed to change the face of the predictions in both the 100 and 200 metres sprints. Fredericks was now being considered a favourite in the former and a strong contender in the latter.

Johnson's camp knew this, which is why his coach Clyde Hart said that, "Fredericks got Michael at the right time, because Michael's had 10 races in 21 days." Hart also felt that



Fredericks should have been called back for an unusually 'quick' start and finally dismissed the whole issue saying that, "Fredericks is a great runner, but to me, this didn't mean a thing."

Hart was wrong. The defeat did

mean a lot. At least, for the rest of the athletes who have been so used to the fact that Johnson would crush them race after race, time after time. It was more than just a win. It offered a fresh new perspective to the 200 metres. "It's a victory for the sport," said



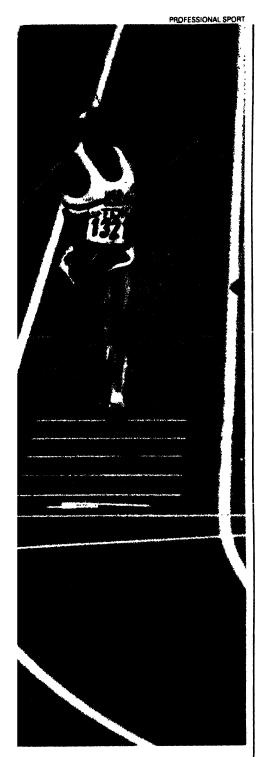
contender Jeff Williams. "They said that nobody could get close to Mike, that he was too dominant; not anymore." Williams knew what he was talking about. After clocking a time of 19.87 secs this year, he was no pushover in the 200's. Yet after the race in Oslo, Williams was more than half a second down. In sprinting

terms, that is considered to be one lifetime.

Buoyed up by this win in the 200's, Fredericks, like Johnson, will be on course to claiming a sprint double in Atlanta. And while form suggests that Johnson will capture the gold in the 400's and Fredericks will win the 100's, it remains to be seen if either of

Frankie Fredericks (921) wins the 200m at the world championships in 1993

them can make the 200 metres the most competitive in the history of the Games. In the process, Johnson or Fredericks may well stand a chance of breaking Johnson's recently set-up world record. By now it is an obvious



fact that Johnson will be running both the 200's and the 400's (which is why he managed to get the Olympic athletics timetable changed) but as for Fredericks, he is still not sure whether he should test his body to the limit. Which is why he went for a softer option and said that, "To stop people thinking that I'm playing games, let's say that I'm running both and if I decide not to run one, that's my prerogative."

Born in the province of Windhoek in Namibia, Frankie Fredericks is a classical low-key but high optimum sprinter. What this means is that he, like Carl Lewis or Michael Johnson, has got the classical technique of relaxing his energy and then pulling away from the rest of the runners in the last 25 metres of the race. This tactic is known as minimum deceleration and it has paid huge dividends to guys like Lewis and Johnson, who has been undefeated in the 400 metres over the last two years.

But what may have fazed Johnson out in the 200 metres at Oslo could have been the very quick start that Fredericks resorted to. It is a game plan he has been working on for quite some time and it paid dividends in that race. The early start saw Fredericks pulling away from the rest of the field, as a result of this, it also upset Johnson's tactics and rhythm which resulted in him decelerating too early in the race. One thing is for sure, however, if both Fredericks and Johnson can keep up their high level of sprinting over an unspecified period

Fredericks (far right) dips his head in just in time to win the silver in the 100m at Barcelona



of time, they could elevate the art of running the 200 metres into a science.

They will also be good for the sport. Frankie Fredericks and Michael Johnson may be identical in temperament but the same cannot be said of their running styles. Fredericks is the more graceful of the two: his style is more fluid and classical while Johnson's is a little ugly and more abstract. The levels of efficacy, however, remain the same. At the age of 28. Fredericks is based in Paris after completing his computer studies at Brigham University in Provo, Utah. His education shows on him and there is a dignified and cerebral air about him. In all these years of being a high level sprinter, Fredericks has managed to avoid all the glitz and 'jive' talk that sprinters resort to before and after every race. He prefers to let his talent do all the talking and perhaps this is the single most reason why he manages to command so much respect.

Both Fredericks and Michael Johnson could well go on to set up the rivalry of the century in the 200 metres. Both are educated men who have been blessed with a special talent for athletics. The similarities, however, end there. If Johnson is the Superman of the track, then Fredericks is his alter ego: Clark Kent. And he typifies this right down to his intellectual spectacles which he proceeds to remove before each race. Fredericks is an introvert, quite ordinary away from the track, but highly explosive on it. He is ambitious, but down to the point of being cool about it. And the quality showed when he was asked about being surprised by his victory. "No," he asserted rather confidently. "That's why we run. Otherwise you could just say to Mike 'You don't have to run today; here's the gold.' I'm not intimidated by anyone."

Not even by the man who clocked 19.85 in the 200 metres and yet managed to finish second? As Jeff Williams managed to quip, "Michael Johnson's not going to play dead. He's got the heart of a champion..."

So has Frankie Fredericks.

HTHE PRESSURE IS **GONNA GET**

With the largescale commercialisation of sport, athletes have to win at all costs

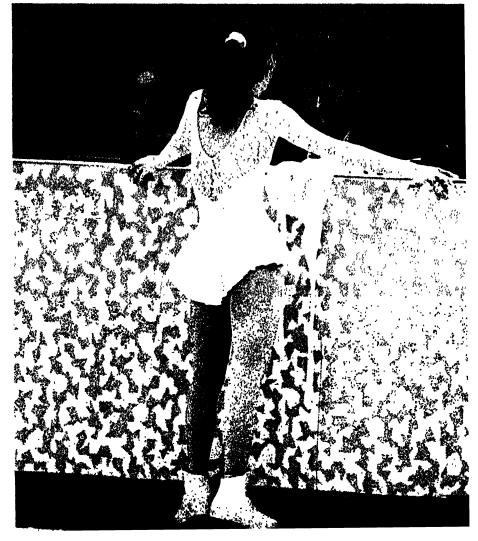
BY ERIC WALTER

HERE are a multitude of threats facing the athlete, and these take many forms, both physical and moral. They are all the more evident as sport in a professional and commercial context develops, which in turn requires clubs, federations, sponsors and the media to achieve spectacular results which of course leads to a great number of risks being taken.

The athlete who has become the first and foremost a marketable object seeks victory at all costs, sometimes to the detriment of his health or even his life. Ski champions launch themselves into hazardous downhill runs, and last winter we saw the Austrian woman's skier Ulrike Maier killed during an event she was tipped to win.

With the sole aim of surpassing oneself and going beyond the limits of resistance, we have seen athletes dely the laws of nature, such as a Swiss competitor in the marathon at the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Completely dehydrated and on the verge of fainting, she completed the race on her knees without either a doctor or an official intervening.

These risks inherent to high-level

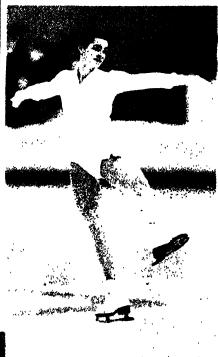


sport have always existed, but what should we think of the risks run today by champions attacked by fanatics or even by their opponents? Monica Seles came close to dying after being stabbed; Nancy Kerrigan was seriously wounded by partisans of her American rival Tonya Harding and Boris Becker is being forced to envisage extremely protective measures for himself, his wife and their child.

Still in this area, we should recall attacks on certain football players who are so skilful and such a threat to their opponents that these latter quite simply may try to eliminate them. It was for this reason that Pele was rendered incapable of continuing to play in the World Cup in England in 1966 as a result of deliberate fouls by his Bulgarian and Portuguese rivals.

PHOTOGRAPHS COLORSPORT





Psychological threats are less flagrantly obvious, but are still a force to be reckoned with because of the development of major sports competitions and their attraction for the media, beginning with the Olympic Games.

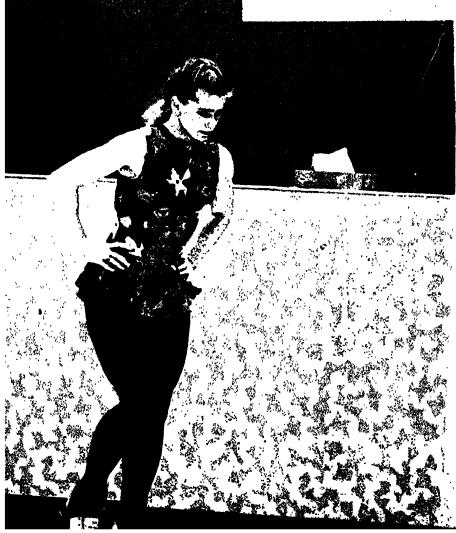
Today, athletes are faced with pressure that is difficult to beat. This may come from state authorities eager to exploit success in sport for propaganda (for example revelations made by athletes from the former East Germany). It can also come from sports leaders who are quick to bask in the glory of their proteges' victories. It may come from sponsors' management, ready to cheat or manipulate in any way, to render their investments profitable.

Threats facing the athletes also come from publicity surrounding their achievements. Today, the press and the electronic media are capable of 'creating' a star within just a few weeks as a result of victory, even if this is an isolated one. Put on a pedestal. the athlete then feels obliged to do anything—even if it is illegal—to stay at the top; and should he fail, he knows that he will be very quickly forgotten. It is very hard for someone 20 years old, sometimes with limited intellectual capacities, to remain lucid when confronted with journalists constantly seeking sensational news!

We are perhaps fortunate that most of these journalists are only concerned with the area of sport, but what of those who interfere in the champions' private lives, providing material for the society scandal sections of their publications?

Athletes from developing countries are also threatened when they discover the conditions in Europe and the United States, and which often leave them defenceless against manoeuvres on the part of sponsors. coaches, or suppliers of forbidden substances. In this connection, more information should be provided in the athletes' respective countries in order that their most talented athletes do not fall victim to their own naivete.

If major sports competitions have





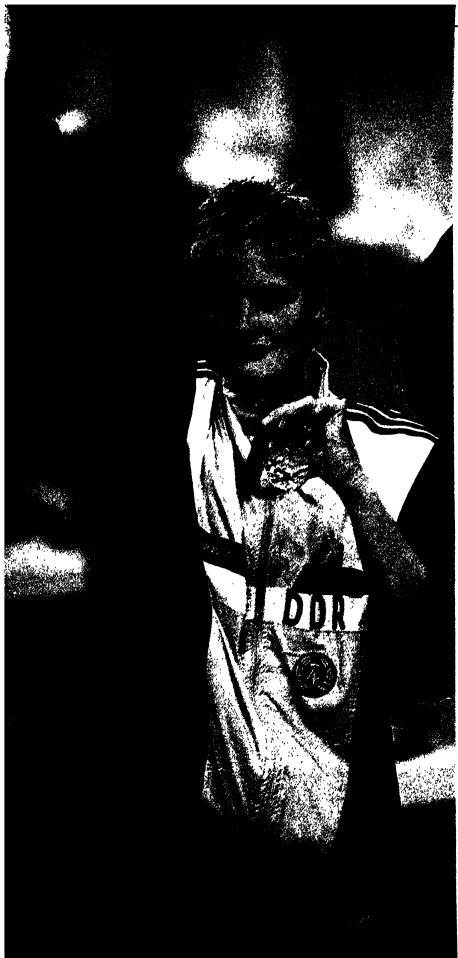
Ben Johnson's failed dope test at the Seoul Olympics, brought worldwide attention to the problem of drug abuse in athletics

recently become open to all athletes, we should not lose sight of the fact that the Games in Montreal (1976), Moscow (1980) or Los Angeles (1984) were the victims of boycotts. Here we saw athletes who had prepared for the Games for four years, implying major sacrifices, but who found themselves forbidden from taking part in the competitions because of political conflicts, and all this without being consulted on the matter.

All the threats we have analysed above has always existed, but today they have taken on a new degree of gravity because of the role of sport and major competitions in society. Today, we are fortunately forced to admit that the most serious threat to the athletes is that of doping, this scourge that incites them to cheat, distorting their results and placing their health at a very genuine risk.

Doping by no means began at the beginning of the twentieth century. Athletes have always turned to secret products with the aim of improving their performance. However, thanks to the enormous progress made by the pharmaceutical industry and the fact that victory represents considerable financial rewards for the athletes and their 'sponsors', it has become increasingly common to turn to chemical substances under conditions that give rise to great concern since doping controls are insufficient in the lace of the progress made and the discoveries of new, harmful and lorbidden substances by the 'suppliers'. Thieves run faster than the policies; this is a truth that is as old as the world!

Following the disqualification of Ben Johnson at the Seoul Games for using anabolics, the Canadian sprinter's coach wrote a book where he explains, using factual examples, that an athlete who uses doping runs faster, jumps higher and throws further then his rivals who, at the outset, are at the same level. If this way of seeing things were restricted to a very few of the world's major stars it



Kristin Otto: there had been a suspicion that she was taking drugs. But it was only when files were opened, once East Germany re-united with West Germany, that it became clear she was on a doping programme

would already be worrying, but the problem is that it now concerns the entire world of sport, since amateurs are now using doping when taking part in events of little importance, and juniors are using forbidden products during their training!

Considerable progress has been made in the fight against doping. Research and detection procedures have been improved and random controls, even during training, have been introduced. Unfortunately, sanctions vary from one sports federation to another, and those who cheat are constantly developing new products and new ways of avoiding detection.

Recently, many athletes from ex-East Germany have admitted taking performance enhancing drugs at the Olympic Games or the World Championships. Others have even claimed they took dope without being aware of doing so. Yet others were not selected because they refused to cheat. However, all these athletes underwent doping controls and none of them were found positive! This goes to show that the statistics published following major world events must be viewed with great prudence.

In this area, it is the athlete who takes the centre stage. It is he who is playing with his health and, in the case of a positive result, it is he who is punished, but the athlete is only the final link in a chain that includes sports leaders, doctors, support staff, managers and coaches. These latter are, moreover, very difficult to fight, and yet it is they who create an extremely grave danger for the athletes in their care, in the belief that the end justifies the means. The sports authorities, with the IOC at their head, can never do enough to remove their harmful influence. It is a merciless struggle and one that must continue unfailingly and without showing the slightest pity.

COURTESY OLYMPIC MESSAGE



STEELY DAN!

DAN O'BRIEN, the world record holder in the decathlon, is once again a hot-shot favourite to win the Olympic gold medal

BY P.V.ISAAC

AN O'BRIFN remembers that day like it was yesterday. It was in 1992, a month before the

Barcelona Olympics was to take place The place: New Orleans. The event: the U.S.Olympic Trials. Dan O'Brien was the current world champion and he was the very hot favourite to win the decathlon gold at the Barcelona Olympics. In the Trials, O'Brien was cruising merrily. The pole vault was the next event in the decathlon.

A supremely confident O'Brien asked that the bar be placed at 15'9". He ran down the runway, jumped up and hit the bar. No problem. There were two other chances. He ran down again. This time, he hit the bar. The spectators began to breathe a little more harder. His coach, Mike Keller, had his mouth open.

O'Brien took a deep breath. He paused at the end of the runway, his eyes squinting a little in the sunshine. Then, with a one, two and a three, he was off, running as fast as he could, the pole held in front of him. He had a

neat take-off but once again, amazingly, he hit the bar.

Dan O'Brien, in one of the great upsets in Olympic Trials, was out of the Games. He was not going to participate in Barcelona. His Olympic dream had turned to ashes.

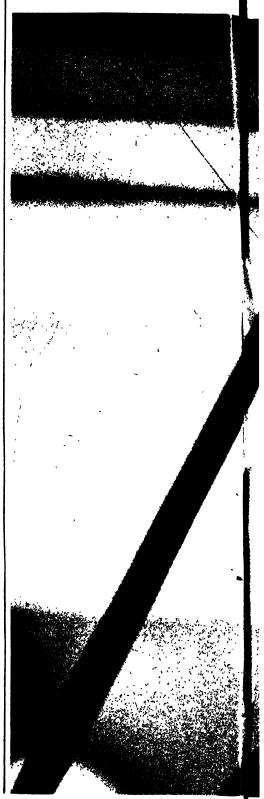
Four years have passed. O'Brien, despite the trauma at New Orleans, has been in good form in these intervening years. He has won all eight of the decathlons that he has participated in. He won his second and third world championship golds with impressive margins. In 1992, he set a world record (8891) that, so far, none of his rivals have surprassed. But still, he can't get over the anxiety of that missed vault in New Orleans.

"Every pole vault competition since 1992," he explained, "has been nerve-wracking for me. I get an increased heartrate, sweaty palms. I have to force myself to relax and do things correctly. But in the end, I've always been very competitive."

O'Brien was determined that this time, he would not make the same mistake at the Trials. He is still a hot-shot favourite for gold at Atlanta.

He is determined that he will come good. In fact, his missed pole vault jump has made people more sympathetic.

"Everywhere I go, people are so



nice and supportive," O'Brien said with a grateful smile, "but it's gotten a little out of hand. People come up and say, 'I know you are going to make it this time." That confidence was well placed. Come the Trials and O'Brien was ready. He took part in all the events, he sailed over the bar in the pole vault and the result: he won the

U.S.Olympic Trials with a score of 8,726 points, his fourth best score over. "It's a great feeling but still, it wasn't beyond my imagination. I had the dream all year, last year and the year





before, to be here at this time. This feels very normal to me...to win a national championships and to be shooting for the gold medal at the Olympic Games."

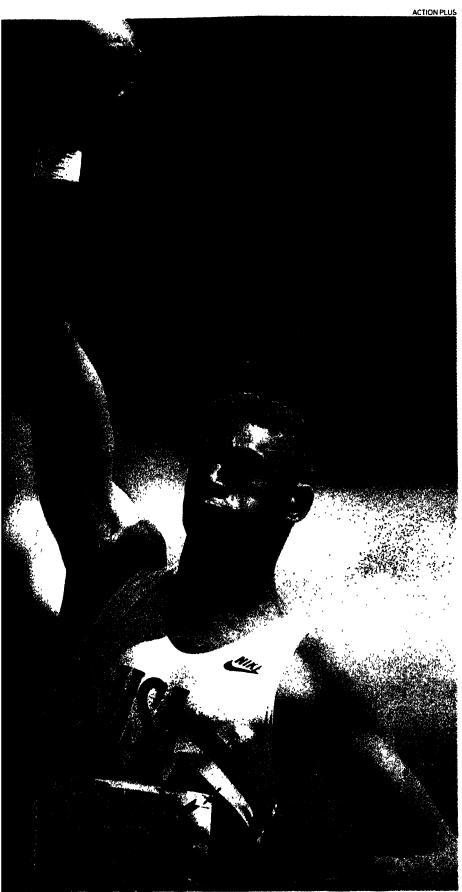
Dan O'Brien has come a long way from his present position of being a hot-shot favourite for an Olympic gold medal. He was born to a mother of Finnish origin and a lather who was half black. At the age of two, he was adopted by a family in which there were seven other siblings—five of whom were also adopted. It was, however, a tranquil childhood in Klamath Falls, Oregon. It was only when he left to join the University of Idaho, on a track scholarship, that his life went off the rails.

He did poorly in class. That created a complex in him. He took to drinking to alleviate his self-hatred. As a result, he became a heavy drinker. There came a time when he was guzzling 10-12 beers a day. Eventually, he was dismissed from the college.

"I had no job," he recalled, "and no money. I would wake up every day thinking that I am a loser." He had become bloated and out of shape. It was only after he reached the depths, that he began the long climb up.

It was sometime in 1988 that Dan O'Brien approached Mike Keller, the track coach who had originally recruited him to Idaho. Keller said that the only way he could come back to the university was to start studying hard, to get the grades that would enable him to start studying again. He studied in earnest. He sailed through the exams. He was once again back at the University. There, under Keller, he had an intense training programme. He used to have three workouts a day, totalling about 4 1/2 hours. But there were doubters who were not sure whether he would come good at the international level.

Concurs Keller, "People questioned whether he could compete at the international level." But O'Brien silenced all doubters by winning the gold at the Tokyo World Championships. He broke the



eight-year-old world record of Daley Thompson by scoring 8891. He became the first decathlete ever to score more than 8,800 twice in the same year.

O'Brien now lives the life of a successful athlete. Unlike previous decathletes, like Bruce Jenner, who depended on his stewardess wife, to fund his travels across the globe, decathletes now earn good money. O'Brien has endorsement contracts with VISA Nike, Foot Locker, Canon and Juice Bowl. His annual earnings come to about \$300,000. He has used this money to build a house with two decks and a hot tub in Moscow, Idaho where he lives. He drives a Mercedes and has a live-in housekeeper.

Now that he has qualified, he is going all out to win a gold medal. To combat his lears about the pole vault, his coach last September, flew in Frank Zarnowski who will serve as public address announcer for the decathlon, to Pullman, Washington, to do the P.A.duties at a meet O'Brien was competing in. The coach's idea was to make even that small aspect of the Games completely familiar to Dan O'Brien.

"The Olympics have come quickly," he said, "each year, I've tried to concentrate on that year's most important competition."
O'Brien is trying to look at the Atlanta Games as just another of those big meets

"Everybody from Bruce Jenner to Rafer Johnson tells me that you can compete in championships all over the world, but once you step on that Olympic track, it's different. Although I can't imagine how it can be that different. I think the Games are going to be an experience for me, but I just need to be locussed, to compete like I always do."

This Olympic Games will prove whether Dan O'Brien can be classified as a great decathlete or not. In the same breath as Daley Thompson. Because to be in the pantheon of the greats, you need to win a gold medal, with the word Olympic before it.

STEVE 本 WONDERS

Britain's STEVE BACKLEY has got all the trophies in his cupboard except an Olympic gold. Can he make the grade in Atlanta?

E was born to be a world champion. There was no question about it. Steve Backley, son of a London cop, showed all the signs of a prodigy. He proved that right from school. He was perfecting himself as a javelin thrower and he could thank his dad for all the inspiration. Backley earned name and fame all too soon. But

unlike the other high profile athletes he shunned publicity and led a simple life. To him, all the 'incentives' that came his way meant precious little. Backley was uninterested in materialistic gains. Actually he could have sat back and relaxed leisurely because he was a world beater in his favourite event. There was, however, one little black spot on his career

profile: Backley did not have the Olympic gold.

All this when Linford Christie could just relax back home in Britain for he had nothing else to gain from the short sprint. Christie had dwarfed all the big challenges from his formidable rivals in the Commonwealth, European, World and Olympics 100m dash. He had nothing else to crave for in life, to say the least. Whether Christie has any further ambitions is a different matter altogether. But his presence at Atlanta was most welcome.

For Steve Backley it was a different story altogether. For him there were no ifs and buts in going to the Olympics. He has to be there to win the javelin gold which he missed at the Barcelona Games in 1992. Indeed, he was a sad man. He had his reasons to be exasperated and dejected. Because he had been very much in the race for the Olympic gold after becoming the World, Commonwealth and European record holder. Backley had all the titles in the world but not the one that he had craved for all his

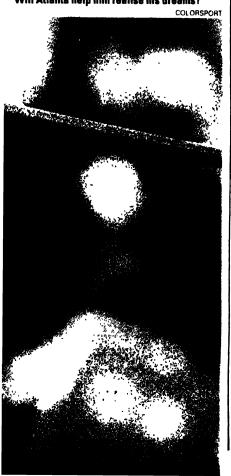


life. Backley knew that only the gold in Atlanta could establish his credentials as a world class javelin thrower.

While Steve Backley had set his eyes on the gold, some of his detractors thought he had no chance at all to be in the England's Olympic squad because he was recuperating after an operation on his Achilles tendon prior to the start of the athletic season. Backley too had that initial trepidation, because he hadn't competed in any event since last summer. However, some of his well-wishers at the outset of the trials had vouched for his place in the team. Sure enough, Backley swung into action and easily qualified.

Before the trials Backley had spent restless nights visualising and analysing how to go about it. How to meet the challenge for the medal hunt. But outwardly he was cool about his chances when he said, "If anything, the lay-off may have a

Steve Backley doing his thing with the javelin. Will Atlanta help him realise his dreams?



positive effect. I'll be fresh and I'll be hungry". That certainly is a dangerous combination.

Considered to be Britain's most consistently successful athletic star. Steve Backley had one vivid memory that was constantly haunting him since May this year: the strong apparition of his old rival Lt. Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic who had hurled the javelin to a new world record of 98.48 metres at the recent Ziess track & field meet. At that time the Brit was on crutches. It certainly cast a pall of gloom in British athletic circles, for they thought their compatriot's chances at Atlanta seemed rather doubtful. (Zelezny had shattered Backley's world mark of 91.46 metres way back in 1993 with a throw of 95.54 metres in his first attempt at the Sanlam Super athletics meet in Pietersburg near Johannesburg). The question that looms large on everyone's mind today is, is Backley capable of going one step further than the Czech?

That was quite evident at the British Olympic trials. Backley managed 80-plus throws with consummate ease. That will certainly have some telling effect on his rivals, to say the least. But in the back of his mind Backley will have to try and cross the 90-plus mark set by Zelezny. Incidentally Zelezny had thrown that distance at least seven times in the past season. Backley who took 15 strides to fling the javelin for his first world record of 89.58 metres in Stockholm in 1990 and went on to do better thereafter, has no apprehensions about his confrontation with Jan Zelezny, "He is the man in form. That 98 metres throw was massive. But he is only human and we've seen in the past how he can crumble. I see him as someone who can be beaten."

Who would have imagined that six years ago, at the age of 21, Steve Backley could have had the world under his feet. In fact, people began to call him the man with the 'golden arm'. But that rare distinction was shortlived when, to everyone's surprise, he failed to qualify for the

1991 World Championships. (That was the same year he was supposed to have made an attempt in bettering his world mark). It came as a rude shock to Backley who couldn't figure out how it happened.

After all, this was the guy who did Britain proud by becoming the world junior champion at such a tender age. This was followed by his meteoric rise to fame in the senior ranks. It all began in 1990 which in retrospect was the most important year in Backley's career. He won his first senior international javelin gold in the Commonwealth Games followed by the world record and eventually the European Championships record in Split.

The erasing of the world mark was rather eventful. How did it happen? It was at the Tait Classic at the North Shore Club in New Zealand. Backley was eagerly looking forward to participating in it to find out exactly as to what went wrong with his performance in the three earlier meets held within seven days and subsequently rectify it.

Backley had to prove his mettle. Fortunately, on the day of the event, the conditions for good throws were congenial, if not better. There was also good news that some incentive in the form of money awaited the best throws. Each throw over 82-plus was given \$1,000. Backley's first throw of 84 metres delighted him. He concentrated more. In each throw, the distance increased and finally he created a new world record of 91.46 metres. Steve Backley had at last found the rhythm on the run-up with immaculate throws. He was all set for Barcelona. The athletics fraternity was confident that this man was definitely going to win the Olympic gold. They were in for a shock. Lt. Zelezny came in from the cold. And moreover, Lt. Jan Zelezny will be there in Atlanta to haunt Steve Backley. Unless of course Backley can exorcise the ghost of his opponent that continues to torment him. Can Backley make the grade? Only Atlanta can answer that question.

Indrani Pal

SMASH HIT!

Cuban heavyweight Olympic champion. FELIX SAVON has a date with destiny



BY WILLIAM RHODES

HF drums that he raided the start of the Cuban revolution still beat to a steady rhythm in Felix Savon's head each time he enters the ring to dismiss another opponent into boxing oblivion. Savon cannot erase the rhythmic beat of the salsa sounds in his brain. To him each time he does battle with an opponent in the ring that opponent is the enemy of the revolution. The enemy of everything that Cuba stands for

Savon's feeling is not a new phenomenon to most boxers from Cuba. Though the toloyalties towards Castro have dimmed considerably today and most boxers from Cuba are looking out for ways and means to escape the oppressive life in Havana and defect to the West in search of glittering professional careers there are a tew loyal sons who reiterate that they cannot ever dream of ditching their country.

Twenty years ago. Savon had a predecessor who is till today considered to be the God of amateur boxing. His name was Teofilo Stevenson and he like Savon propagated the ments of his country and the stance it adopted towards amateur sport. That it was just another of Castro's socialist leanings was another matter. Stevenson did not believe that it had anything to do with politics. It had a lot to do with principles. And till the day he retired the icon amongst amateur boxers stuck to his principles like he did with his jab in the ring. Even if that meant turning down a \$5 million offer to fight the then heavyweight champion Mohammed Ali What is \$5 million against five million Cubans who love me Stevenson had argued then

Twenty years later Cuba's answer to Stevenson Olympic heavyweight champion Felix Savon is echoing the same punch line. It all started when he turned down an offer

Felix Savon skill, brains and guts

double than what had been offered to Stevenson, to trade punches with World Boxing Council champion Mike Tyson.

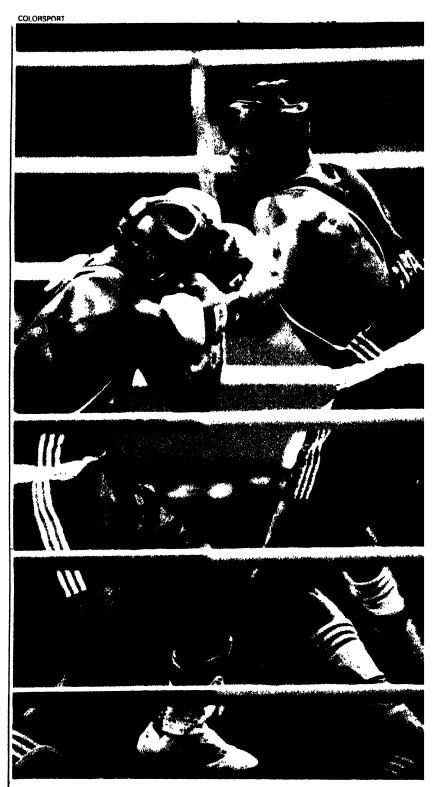
"Why am I going to look in another galaxy for a kind of boxing that doesn't interest me," he reasoned. "I want to make history in revolutionary sport."

For most Cubans, boxing isn't just a sport. It is a way of life: just as football, is to the Brazilians. To the Cubans, however, it does not serve to illustrate the beauty of their way of living. On the contrary, it shows their struggles and the way they strive to overcome the odds through this sweet science. Therefore, like Stevenson, who won three consecutive gold medals in the heavyweight division in the Olympic Games, Felix Savon is the perfect ambassador to the Cuban way of life. The capitalists will scream themselves hoarse saying that this is not the ideal path to follow. Not when you can become a millionaire through the sport. All one has to do is renounce the socialist ideals, defect to the West and sign on the dotted line with a promoter. Their life stories could then be punctuated with dollar signs. It was so simple: join hands with Uncle Sam.

By the look of things, the capitalists were proving to be right. Cuba is in the grip of a severe economic crisis, thanks to U.S. embargoes, and several prominent sportsmen have defected in large numbers over the years. Not Savon, who lives a more than comfortable yet understated lifestyle in Havana in a house which is cranimed with trophies and medals.

Contentment is the key word, Savon emphasises. "If you leave the island, you lose everything. You don't think of anyone nor does anyone think of you. Here I have the confidence of 11 million Cubans." These are inspiring words from a sportsman who was born into a humble family of farmers in the sugar-cane rich area of Guantanamo.

Today Savon is the perfect family man, married to a woman from his home town and the father of twins (a boy and a girl). Life, hasn't been easy for this soft spoken champion. Plagued with a speech defect from a very young age, Savon concentrated on showing an aptitude for sport. At the age of 13, he was sent to one of Cuba's premier sports training colleges and later to the Havana national centre. Once there, after trying his hand at a variety of sports, Savon



Savon is a definite contender for the heavy weight gold at Atlanta

decided to concentrate on boxing. Today, Savon isn't far from realising his dreams. He wants to ensure that Teofilo Stevenson's mantle is passed on safely to his understudy. Which is why he's going for glory, going for gold.

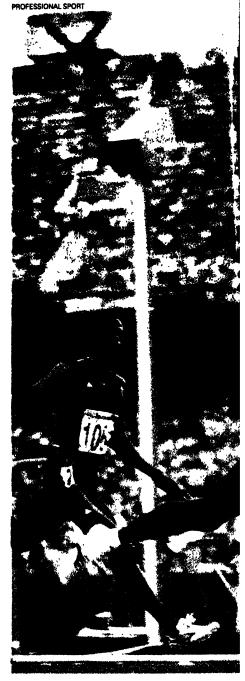
Arriba, Savon!

OLD IS GOLD!

Despite getting older, track legends like Sergei Bubka, Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner Kersee and a few others are still hotshots for the gold in Atlanta. This proves that age is not a deterrent to performance HIS Olympics will have quite a few legends still taking part, although they are supposed to be over the hill. Some of the names that come to mind are Sergei Bubka, Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner Kersee, Linford Christie, Merlene Ottey, Stefka Kostadinova and last, but not the least, the amazing Tessa Sanderson, who is taking part in her fifth Olympics in a row. That surely is a record of sorts.

These athletes have proved time and time again that where there's a will, there's a way. Despite declining skills, ageing muscles, and sometimes, sagging motivation, they have managed, time and time again, to scale the heights in major competitions. So nobody is writing them off in this current Olympic Games. Perhaps the person with the least chance of winning a medal is Tessa Sanderson, but to participate in her fifth Olympics itself is a great achievement.

Linford Christie, already an Olympic champion, will hope to repeat his Barcelona win at Atlanta. But he has a host of world class challengers, that will make his job really tough this time



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Let's take Sergei Bubka. He in his mid-thirties, but he has won just last year his fitth world championships title. He has ruled the pole vault event for the last ten years. He has set more that thirty-five.world records in the pole vault and won an Olympic gold just once.

So, if there is such a thing as athletic certainty it comes in the chunky smiling shape of Sergei Bubka.

One of the main reasons for him doing so well for so long, is the motivation of earning large sums of money for setting world records. Long before perestroika, he had a yen for the western-style of living and with a string of world records going back to 1984, he has accrued enough hard currency to set up home for his wife and two sons in Berlin. Bubka brings a sense of theatre to the sport, when he dices with deleat, clattering the bar down, then going for what looks like impossible heights, only to clear them with daylight to spare. On the European circuit, he commands a \$30,000 bonus, for breaking the world record. Since he has nudged it up centimetre by centimetre from 5.85 metres in 1985 to the current height of 6.10 metres, the financial

Merlene Ottey: current form shows that she is a hot shot for the 100m gold. But Ottey has a problem of nerves. At 34, this is probably her last chance at Olympic glory

future of the Bubkas seems assured.

Undoubtedly, Bubka is head and shoulders above his rivals, with a margin of 18 centimetres over his closest challenger. Like a true champion, he is at his most riveting best for any major championship like the Olympic Games. "Age should not bother me," he said with a smile, "but...I am mentally preparing myself to assert my supremacy at Atlanta."

Like Bubka, Carl Lewis is an old

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hand in the athletics fraternity.
Although, sadly, he has only been selected in the long jump event. But he is a class long jumper. There is a strong chance of him winning a ninth Olympic gold—a stunning fourth Olympic long jump title in a row—at Atlanta, particularly since world champion Ivan Pedroso of Cuba has had serious injury problems. Lewis, of course, will have to contend with world record holder Mike Powell.

Carl Lewis is an icon in the athletics fraternity today. Amazingly, at 35, he is still a world class sprinter. Normally, sprinters have a career that spans a few years. But, ever since Lewis burst into the international spotlight in 1981, he is still going strong.

How does he manage to keep his strength, fitness and focus?

One of the major reasons has been the rise of technology, of the high sophistication of sports medicine. Added to that, you must not forget his passion. Athletics has been his first and only love. He is passionately committed to excellence. This has given him the incentive to continue practising like a man driven. Like Bubka, he also realises that he can earn large sums of money through the sport. Today, Carl Lewis is a multi-millionaire. But he also realises that an athletics career is very limited in years. So, this is the time to make the moolah.

Linford Christie, like Lewis, has finally decided to make another attempt at Olympic glory. Or rather, he is looking for a glorious farewell. If he wins a gold medal, then that will increase his chance of getting even

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Picture shows Carl Lewis celebrating his long jump win at the Barcelona Olympics. The question is, will he be able to do the same at Atlanta?

more lucrative contracts. Christie knows that he is very near the end of his illustrious career. At 35, he is not getting any younger. Although he says, "Age is in the mind. Every day, they keep telling me that I am old but I am still going out there and

mixing it with the young ones and beating them all the time."

Although the chances of his winning the gold medal is rather slim, what with the tremendous competition offered by the presence of Frankie Fredericks, Ato Boldon, Donovan Bailey, and Dennis Mitchell.

Jackie Joyner Kersee is another athlete who has defied age in a remarkable way. She is going for her third straight Olympic gold medal. At 34, age is creeping up on her. In the U.S. Trials, for the first time, she placed second, which suggests that her powers are on the wane. But she, like any patriotic American, would like to end her career with an Olympic gold medal at Atlanta. That would be the icing on the cake.

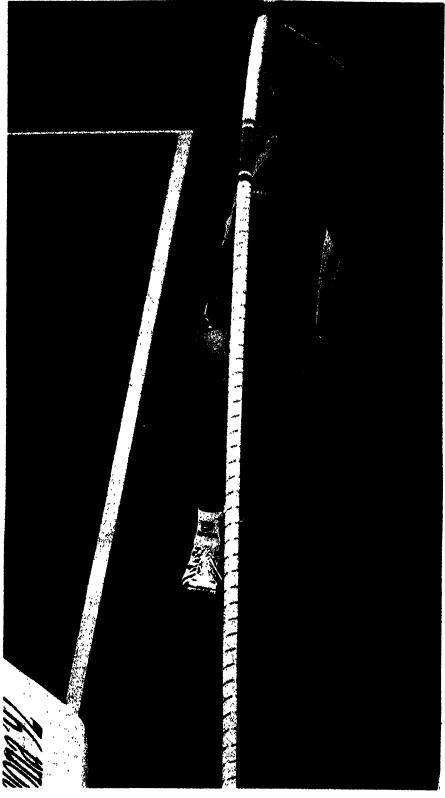
Jackie Joyner Kersee, from all accounts, has motivated herself, not

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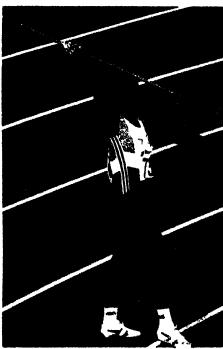


because of the lure of lucre, but because she wants to etch her name in the history books, as one of the greatest athletes in the modern era. If she wins gold at Atlanta, there will be no doubt about her greatness. But even if she doesn't, her past record as winner of Olympic and World Championship golds has already ensured that she is regarded as one of the great athletes of this century.

Merlene Ottey, the Jamaican who

Sergei Bubka seems to defy gravity and age, as like old wine, he gets better and better as the years goes by

lives in Italy, had won over 50 consecutive 100 metre races. Her major problem has been that, despite being such a major talent, she always lost her nerves in big championships like the Olympics. The result: she has won more bronze medals than any other sprinter in the present era. Her luck turned when she won gold at the World Athletics Championship in Gothenburg last year in the 200m. Although this happened when Gwen

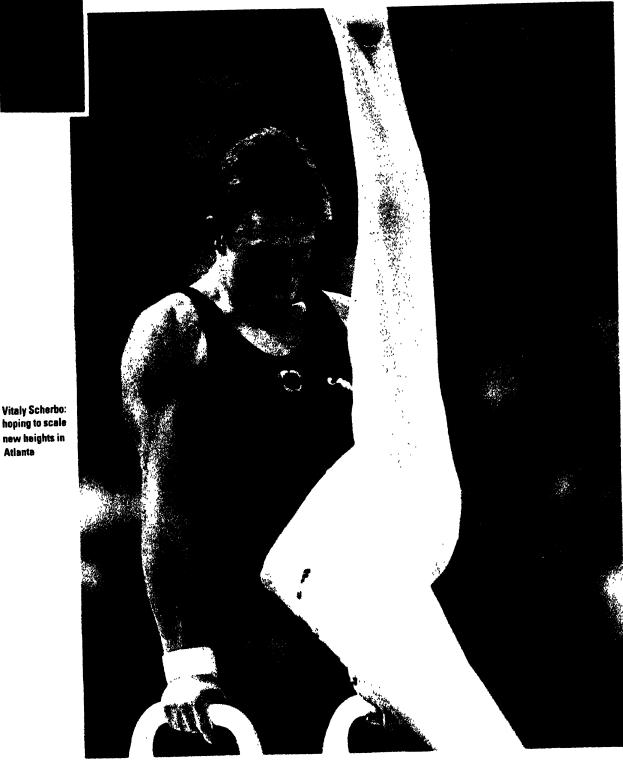


Tessa Sanderson is going into the history books for taking part in an unprecedented fifth Olympics in a row.

Torrence was disqualified for stepping lanes. Ottey will be 34 at Atlanta, but her present form shows that she is a clear favourite to win her first Olympic title. That is, of course, if she keeps her nerve.

In sum, it is clear that age is in the mind and nowhere else. It is just a number. If you don't feel old in your mind, then you can keep performing. Provided that you keep practising steadily. There's no doubt from the example that these above athletes have shown that Old is Gold!

P.V.Isaac with inputs from T.S Venkataraman



Having regained his focus, VITALY SCHERBO is all set to become the greatest gymnast of all times

BY WILLIAM RHODES

Atlanta

RACEFUL!

That's one word that would describe
Vitaly Scherbo and his job. His job? Well, for starters he happens to be a very good gymnast, in fact the best in the business. Add to that, the six gold medals that he won in the Barcelona Olympics—a feat that has been bettered only once by Mark Spitz who won seven golds in '72—and you certainly have a story on your hands. But Scherbo the champion gymnast remains an unsung hero. He is one of the most underrated superstars participating in this edition of the Games and none of the hype that goes to the athetic superstars is being accorded to this 24-year-old Belarussian. Scherbo likes things to remain that way....he performs and then walks away with the medals.

Scherbo has admitted that this Olympics will be his last and has made his intentions clear, "I'm going to Atlanta to win medals. I'm sure I will win medals and the only question is how many. I'm sure I'll win at least one gold. I don't take silver and bronze medals scriously and for me they don't count." Only one gold? Scherbo must be joking, specially when you consider that he's got six Olympic titles to defend in Atlanta.

But if you consider the card that fate dealt him in the beginning of the year, you'll realise that Scherbo is just being realistic. At that point of time Scherbo almost totally gave up gymnastics...alter his wife Irina veered off the road in her car in Pennsylvania, crashed into a telegraph pole and almost lost her life. Irina, the mother of Scherbo's three-year-old daughter spent weeks in intensive care and had to undergo three surgeries. During the ordeal Scherbo sat by his wife's bedside...hoping and praying.

It was an experience that Scherbo would not forget in a hurry and his wife realised that the best way for Scherbo to come to terms with life once again was to return to the gymnasium. It was tough trying to persuade him but in the end she made him see reason. And Scherbo later admitted, "At that time I put gymnastics aside. I simply didn't care about sports. When Irina returned to consciousness she asked me not to give up my sport. But it wasn't easy. For almost two months I didn't do any sport. I gained weight and my psychological stability suffered during that time. Yet, I managed to overcome all that."

That Scherbo had managed to exorcise the demons lurking inside him became clear in the very next tournament that he participated in: the World Championships in Puerto Rico. He took the gold in the floor exercise and won another two medals. The gold medal, that he won in Puerto Rico was his 14th World Championship gold medal, a feat that no one has emulated so far, and a feat that made him the most decorated gymnast in the world. Vitaly Scherbo was hungry once again.

Scherbo persisted. His persistence bore fruit yet again when he won three apparatus gold medals and the

all-round silver medal at the European Championships in Copenhagen in May this year. The medals also gave way to the realisation that he had one more chance for a tryst with Olympic glory and Scherbo was certainly not going to whittle away his last chance. So it was back to Minsk, his hometown in Belarus and back to the Staiki Sports Training Centre where he rejoined his fellow gymnasts to train for the showdown in Atlanta.

It certainly was not a homecoming that he looked forward to, but Scherbo realised that he had to be in Belarus if he was to represent the country in the Games. Scherbo always felt that he was discriminated against by the Belarussian authorities and was not given his due even after he won so many laurels for his country. It all started three years back when he and his wife (also a former acrobat) earned \$50,000 from a 20 city US tour. It was then that the Belarussian sports authorities demanded that he turn over 30% of his earnings over to them, a practice that many athletes from the former Soviet Bloc resented.

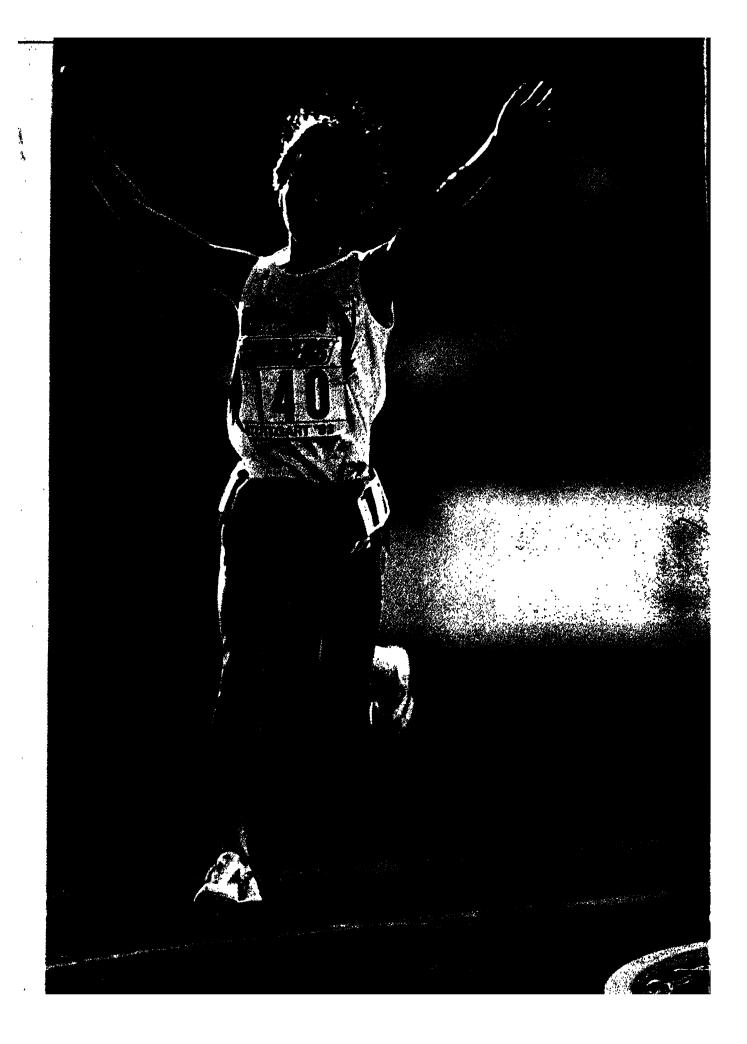
Scherbo exploded, "I work like a buffalo and they try to take what peanuts I make away from me. I don't trust anybody. I make all my contracts myself to make sure they don't think they've got me by my balls." It was at this juncture that he decided that if he was setting up home it would not be in his native country, but in America the land of opportunities. Scherbo had also decided to live the American Dream, a decision which he later defended saying, "Our system makes us victims of insecurity and fear. I want my family to eat properly, not to be lining up for daily bread, not to be carrying kilos of cash in my pockets but to be able to pay for things with my credit card. In the States I can concentrate more on my family, I can relax better and feel alive."

But Scherbo must realise one very important aspect of American psyche. If he is to make a mark in America then he should *perform*, for America loves performers. Public memory being very short, not many are going to connect him to the athlete who has won the most number of gold medals in an Olympics. If he is to be remembered in America then he has to win those all important medals in Atlanta. Afterall, the Yanks like nothing better than a performer who performs in America.

If Scherbo does manage to win some medals in 'Atlanta, then it will be so much more easier for him to slip into the post-retirement scheme that he has envisaged. As he said, "I've already accomplished what I wanted to accomplish. I think it's time to get away from competitive gymnastics, do some exhibitions around the world and make some money."

However, the amount of money that he will make is directly proportionate to the number of gold medals he manages to defend in Atlanta. Scherbo realises this perfectly well and chances are that when his date with destiny finally materialises he is not going to blow it away.

45



ATCH UT FOR

WANG JUNXIA, one of China's brightest talents, seems likely to win the 10,000m gold

HE Chinese are an impenetrable lot. You never know what they are thinking or doing. You never know their plans for the future. You never know who is who in the Chinese team. So I decided to go to Nanking, to find out more about what was happening to Ma Junren and his band of runners.

I arrived in time to watch the Chinese national track and field championships at Nanking. This was in the month of May. It was hot and sticky. But the Wu Tai San Stadium looked good. Trees ringed the stadium and gave it a most pleasant ambience. It was the perfect environment for 3000m and 10,000m world record holder Wang Junxia to display the awesome form that has sent litters in the world of athletics. In the heats itself, she won the 10,000m in a time of 31:01.7 secs. This would have won her the world title at Gothenburg, if she had participated. A couple of days later, she ran the 5000m with a time of 14:51.87 which was the fastest time in the world. She was in good form. She was the only one among the proteges of Ma's Army, who did not seem affected by the absence of the charismatic Ma.

In the 5000m, Junxia employed the famous technique used by Vladimir Kuts of Russia. As soon as the race started, she went into the lead and turned on the juice. As a result, she led for the first nine laps. The pace was too fast, as a result of which most of the other Chinese athletes fell away. Only three of them managed to hold on for dear life. But three laps from the end, Wang Junxia accelerated fiercely; there was nobody to play catch up. The fact that she is only twenty three suggests that she has an enormously bright future in front of her.

Not so, the other wards of Ma Junren. Qu Yunxia, the 1500m world record holder and Wang Yuan failed to qualify for the 800m final. Later, Qu ran the 1500m very badly, while Ma's brightest pupil, Jiang Bo, dropped out of the 5000m final.

Jiang Bo, who last year, set Asian and Junior world records, ran the 5000m very badly. For five laps, she managed to stay close to Wang. But in the sixth lap, her rhythm vanished. She fell back. The other runners went past. The gap increased to 70m. Then she stopped running. People ran up to her to find out whether she had been injured. Instead, she was weeping. She said that she had no injury. When questioned further about why she had dropped off, she said,"Ask my coach."

Unfortunately, coach Ma Junren has been seriously ill. He was lying on a hospital bed in Peking, recovering from intestinal ulcers. His illness has disrupted the coaching schedules and his awesome influence on his trainees. The poor performances of his wards was one such direct effect. Except for Wang, none of the others will be seen at Atlanta.

Wang Junxia seems to possess more spirit than the others. When she won the Mercedes Benz car for winning the 10,000m gold at the Stuttgart World Championships in 1993, Ma Junren refused to give the car to her. She almost broke away from him until he yielded. Now, in the absence of Ma Junren, she has got herself another coach called Mao Deixhen, who seems less frenetic and angry and pushy than the charismatic Ma. At Nanking, Wang planned 71 second laps for the 5000m and she did it with ease.

She's at present a hot shot for gold in the 10.000m. P.V.Isaac

Nang Junxia raises her arms aloft after she wins

THE QUEST%

Ethiopian long distance ace, HAILE GEBRESELASSIE is looking for honour: for his country and himself

BY WILLIAM RHODES

THIOPIA continues to ward remain in the news for the wrong reasons. Until very As a derecent times it was the decades of civil war that ravaged Ethiopia that continued to hog the headlines all over the world. Or it would be the natural calamities, specially famines (remember Bob Geldolf's Live Aid?) that made sure that newscasters at least made a passing reference to the African country. For years, Ethiopia's poverty and the absolute lack of basic infrastructure facilities made it the brunt of sick jokes the world over. But the African country which still has the dubious distinction of being the second poorest country in the world behind Mozambique, and the country that still has four million of its inhabitants depending on relief aid from foreign countries is in a joyous mood. 52,078,000 Ethiopians are pinning their hopes on one man namely Haile Gebreselassie to get them an Olympic gold from Atlanta. And Gebreselassie has decided to oblige as he goes into the Games as the favourite to win either the 5,000m or the 10,000m gold. Or, even both!

An Olympic gold is the only medal that has so far cluded the athlete who holds the world record in both the 5,000 (12:44.39) and the 10,000 metres (26:43.53) and in Atlanta, Gebreselassie has decided to make amends. As he claimed, "It is something I look forward to and I want to win that Olympic gold. Any

athlete worth his salt looks for an Olympic gold after other successes." Success has certainly come early to Gebreselassie who, at 23 has two world titles and five world records to his credit. But if you consider the athlete's rather unique childhood it becomes clear that he was born to run long distances.

Actually it was the poverty and the system that made sure Gebreselasie took to long distance running. Ethiopia with a per capita income of only around \$120 a year could not afford to pump in money for an effective public transport system. It was the lack of this basic infrastructure that made the champion run long distances from a very tender age. Primary school timings dictated that Gebreselassie be there by eight every morning, which in turn meant that he would have to wake up at six every morning-the distance to be covered to school was ten kilometres. But Gebreselassie like every child detested the idea of waking up in the wee hours of the morning, and the net result was that he would have to run the entire stretch of ten kilometres to reach his school in time. As Gebreselassie reminisces, "We often woke up late and so instead of walking to school, we would have to run." Now we know why our protagonist runs through the opposition in the long distances as if he was just walking in his sleep.

In August '95, Gebresclassie just streamrolled through the opposition as he went on to slash the existing 5000m record by an overwhelming 11 seconds in Zurich. Then, earlier this year he switched to running indoors and immediately went on to break the existing world indoor records in both the 3,000m and the 5,000m. The only failure he had this year came when he failed to retain the world cross-country championship title. That was not because he had run badly or that the eventual winner Paul Tergat from Kenya was a better runner than him... he lost because he tripped over a log in the crucial stages, and has since then vowed never to compete in the event again.

However, at Atlanta, Paul Tergat should be hoping for a miracle if he expects to take the gold away from Gebreselassie. But the Ethiopian's dream of winning the golds in both the 10,000 and the 5,000m may not materialise either, because of the Olympic schedule which does not leave much time between the two events. The athletics scheduling that has seen a redraft to allow American sprinter Michael Johnson to compete in a double could not be changed yet again and this is one discrepancy that the Ethiopians are very sore about. As Wolde Meskel Kostire, Ethiopia's head coach commented, "That is denying Ethiopia the chances of clear gold medals. It is as if the organisers thought it would be robots and not humans who would be running."

However, as Gebreselassie takes on the posse of Ethiopians, Kenyans and Moroccans on the tracks of Atlanta, each of the 52 million Ethiopians will wish him luck with a silent prayer. There is hope....

...Hope that at last Ethiopians will find themselves identifying to a hero who presents a clear picture to the world. Something positive about their poverty stricken nation.



Gebreselassie, the world record holder in the 10,000 and the 5,000m goes to Atlanta as a sure shot gold medallist in either of the events

Quota System

PERY recently we had a plethora of articles in sports magazines and newspapers denouncing the so-called 'quota' system in Indian cricket. The evils of this system were seen to be reflected in the selection of a 'non-entity' like Sourav Ganguly in preference to an established star like Vinod Kambli. It is hoped that the excellent performance of Sourav Ganguly on the tour of England will serve as an eye-opener for the critics of the zonal system of selection.

It is unfortunate that despite the emergence of States like Bengal and Karnataka in the national forefront, certain scribes (including ex-cricketers) seem to harbour a distinct 'western' bias and tend to underestimate talents from the other 'backward' States. Hence, if Prashant Vaidya fails to deliver the goods at the international level, his selection is ascribed to the 'quota' system whereas Paras Mambhray's equally dismal performance is just 'plain' bad luck. It is time we

Screwing The Cork

THE article 'Cork And A Little Bull' published in Sportsworld dated 3-16 July, '96 reveals the abundant talent of Dominic Cork. He did a marvellous job for English cricket. He is a real threat to international cricketers. If he develops his batting, he can become an all-rounder like Ian Botham.

C.K.BAMANATHAN, Ghaziabad.



Source Canguly: his performance in England should serve as an eys-opener for the critics

The Third Eye

Tillis refers to your reports on the debate as regards probable installation of a Third liye'in loothall to ensure fair play and fair judgement as well. As we die aware of the fact that football being a last flowing game. excessive reference to an outside official would mar the flow. But simultaneously we can't ignore the fact that legitimate goals like that of Dorine Munteaunu (Momental are overlooked due to numen error in the process denying the team their due Mich is no way acceptable.

It is indeed destrable that a high level technical commutates of PUPA at the that a second as possible to students in the total of the "Student Special control of course selfinger, showing again, as high

realised that the diverse nature of our country and its huge cricketing population makes the zonal method of selection imperative. This aids the balanced growth of the game and prevents its dominance by a few. States or zones.

So, kudes to Sourav and long live the 'quota' system.

BASUDEV SANYAL, Howreh.

OR all the barracking you gentlemen of the Press have handed out to Souray Ganguly all. these years, now you have a duty to make a counter-attack, on his behalf this time. Your magazine should really blast Harsha Bhogle and Ravi Shastri for their unjustified, parochial stream of attacks on Ganguly. In addition to writing about and exposing these two worthies, you should take interviews with them and put them to the floor so that in future they think twice before ruining a **f**oung promising cricketer's career with their vitriolic attacks.

RANA MAITRA, Abu Dhabi.

Three Cheers

was indeed a collector's item. It appeared as though Euro'96 was brought to our doorstep. The game of football has become increasingly popular.

With ESPN's coverage of Calcutta football on the cards, we have a football treat. Your magazine did did a marvellous job in bringing out the colourful Euro '96 issue.

C.K.SUBRAMANIAM, Vashi.

THE MAM. THE MACHINE... THE TYRE... MRF NYLOGRIP



Long after they have finished talking about great umpires in cricket, one man will still be on top of everyone's list: HAROLD 'DICKIE' BIRD

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

XCEPT for his remarkable accuracy, what else can be the most obvious reason why a cricket umpire should be revered and almost canonised? I can't think of one. But the problem is Dicky Harold Bird is perhaps the most revered umpire in this thankless, perennially hazardous job, but he was not particularly known for his remarkable accuracy. Why is this?

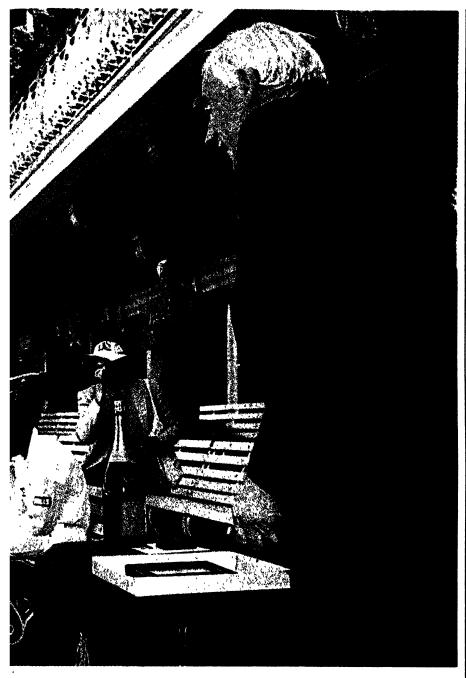
In fact, when this legendary umpire said goodbye to cricket at the Lord's during the second England-India Test, this diminutive veteran of 66 Test matches was paid a rather interesting tribute by another all-time great of the game, Imran Khan. He said, "I will always remember him as a man who made mistakes, rather than one who was infallible." Then, why is Dicky Bird such a legend?

Well, Dicky Bird cannot easily be summed up, anyway. Simply because his personality contains a series of incredible contradictions. He is quiet in manner, yet convivial, especially among his cricketing companions; emotional to the extent of shedding

Je girl



THE UMPIRE STRIKES BACK



tears in public (something most Englishmen would hate to do, barring of course Gazza), yet cool while discharging his duties. A man who often looked grim and fearsome, and yet his sense of humour was like a waft of fresh air to many a cricketing great in their grimmest moments. And above all, he was seemingly unassertive, yet incredibly firm in his decision.

And if you know more about him, especially his younger days, you are

bound to wonder how on earth this weakling could ever become such a domineering, unflappable personality in world cricket.

Dicky Bird initially aspired to be a cricketer, a batsman. But more than his batting skills, it was his shaking knees and bitten nails that became the talk of whole Yorkshire when Bird hoped he would one day make a great batsman.

If you ask Geoff Boycott, fellow Yorkshireman and one known for his

Harold 'Dicky' Bird was not just an umpire, he has become part of cricketing folklore

blunt comments, he would readily testify, "Dicky's knees used to shake when he went out to bat. He used to eat up his nails right there on the crease. He was too nervous. And that is why his career fell apart."

Yes, but only as batsman. Did those knees ever shake ever since they disappeared under black trousers, while layers and layers of sweater kept their owner warm in the cold, windy cricket grounds of Yorkshire and elsewhere? No, not even when massive, intimidating appealing became fashionable and unnerved many umpires the world over in the rapidly changing world of professional cricket.

"Well, they appeal so massively, so loudly, so aggressively nowadays, that one cannot be blamed really for being a little affected by it," Dicky Bird said, "And the language some players use in disappointment is not very nice, you know; so it is very difficult to give the right decision under so much pressure. But you cannot be weak, you have to be firm."

And hence the knees never shook, and the nails on his fingers remained out of harm's way till they were manicured. And Dicky Bird grew in his stature and fame as one of the best-known and respected umpires in the game.

Respect, yes, respect is what made Dickie Bird well...Dickie Bird. Not because he was infallible, flawless, but because of his quest to be so. Honest, professional perfectionism which became his hallmark and far outweighed the mistakes that he made.

Yes, he did make mistakes, but no one else, perhaps, was more aware of them and more tormented by them than Dickie Bird himself. In fact, it was his sensitiveness to 'mistakes' that could have prompted him to think seriously about retirement when he officiated in a few matches last season. They were not many. In fact, they were rare, but for this rare species they were enough.



A tearful Dicky Bird bidding a final adject to the crowds who loved him and, who he loved as much

In one instance, he did not think it necessary to call for a TV replay when he should have. In another instance, coming closely on the heels of the previous one, he sought the third umpire's help before giving his verdict. Ironically, the batsman in this case was out by miles, too palpably to be missed even by the crowd. And the crowd ridiculed him, something Dickie Bird was not at all used to, except when bad light or rain made his life miserable in the midst of cricket loving spectators who always wanted the umpire not to spoil their fun, come rain or hale.

And the elements have been particularly unkind to him, although his career, not only from above but even below. "There was this match, I don't quite remember who was playing against who, but the funny thing was one of the players seemed to be looking for something on the grass. as if he had lost a penny," Dickie Bird was reminiscing, "but then he called me and wanted to show me something. I was aghast to see that water was oozing out of the ground. Quite a lot of it. So, what could I have done? It was just next to the wicket. So, I said no way, no way could a match be played in those conditions. but they got upset: 'Hey Dickie, come on let them play' they started yelling, as I was going out of the ground. I said, well what can I do? I am not a plumber; not my fault. And you know what had happened? There was a burst water pipe underneath, and water was coming out steadily, and they thought I should have let the match carry on. I did what was reasonable, by any logic. It was not my fault."

And then there was this perpetual problem of bad light. "They always blamed me for the bad lights," Dickie Bird continued, "what is this? Does not make sense. What could I have done, if the Sun went behind the clouds, just like that. And you know what they did, they brought all those metres and stuff; my bag was full of

SPOTEIGHT

them," Dickie Bird was showing his briefcase, muttering, "yeah, the light metre, you know the dreaded light metre 'Put it away, Dickie, put it away, they used to shout the moment they saw one. As if I was some kind of a salesman selling new weird gadgets. As if I was doing it all deliberately, to spoil their fun. The moment they saw the light metre, 'Put it away. Dickie, put it away.' But what could I have done anyway. It was the rule, the new rule. I only follow the rules."

And then there was this calculator Dickie found one right at the bottom of his bag "These are our tools you know, we just don't give people out or shout no ball, wide or things like that We umpires have a lot of other duties, you know You see this bag, it is full of them just paperwork Playing conditions this that the other It is not an easy job at all, you know '

No it is not an easy job at all. And that s exactly why tools machines ino c and more of them, began in iding the life and times of Dickie

Id as cricket progressed steadily down the road of commercialisation and media explosion. There is this sneaky little eye staring relentlessly down the pitch from the forchead of the middle stump. Is that some kind of a robotic rival to the likes of Dickie Bird? Don't they symbolise a growing lack of faith in the good-old fashioned Dickie Birds who have striven all their life to achieve perfection?

And all that they have relied upon in this iclentless effort is their eyes in some cases a pair of glasses and a few hand picked extremely dependable eye specialists. Let me have a good look at your eyes. Dickie his eye-consultant would say in the end they would blame me, if you don t quite see what you should And the good old obedient Dickie would sit quietly but garrulously, throughout the session cracking jokes telling stories before his doctor was convinced that Dickie still had a good pair of eyes that would not fail him unless they were trained on something that was not cricket. Yet sadly enough it was the machine those lifeless, staring eyes that began



to make life miserable for the Dickie Birds. They began to open our eyes to the myopia that cricket had long been suffering from. It was Dickic Bird's nemesis.

It was a slow motion camera that showed during the NatWest Trophy final that Dermot Reeve was plumb lbw Dickie Bird had given him not out Dickie Bird may or may not blame his eye consultant for this may even such im but the fact remained that Dickie Bird had not seen things right For a perfection that was the moment of truth.

Quit when the world still respected him, loved him, revered him. For,

Dicky Bird a rare species

Dickic Bird himself believed 'Three quarters of the matter is the players respect. And he got plenty of it. Not because he was a super umpire, because in him cricket found a humane umpire who knew his limitations did his best to overcome them give everybody a fair deal, and of course a good time of fun and laughter, and in the final reckoning emerged as an umpire who, 99 times out of hundred proved to be dead right.

Lven when he called himself out, his verdict proved impeccable

"OH CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN!"

Forlorn, aloof and distant from a young side, MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN looked woefully out of touch, both as a player and as a captain

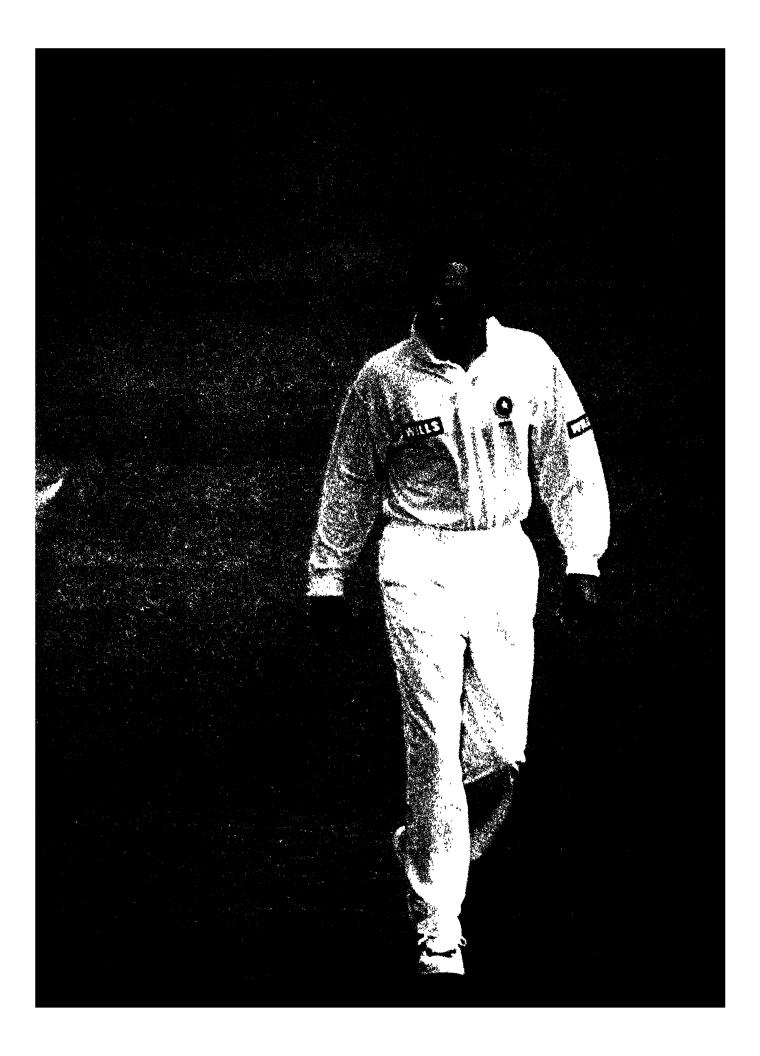
FROM SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

T was not a threatening delivery. In fact, it was an ordinary one cruising harmlessly by his off-stump. The Indian skipper half-heartedly flicked it. The ball gratefully kissed the outer edge of his bat and quickly disappeared into Jack Russel's welcoming gloves.

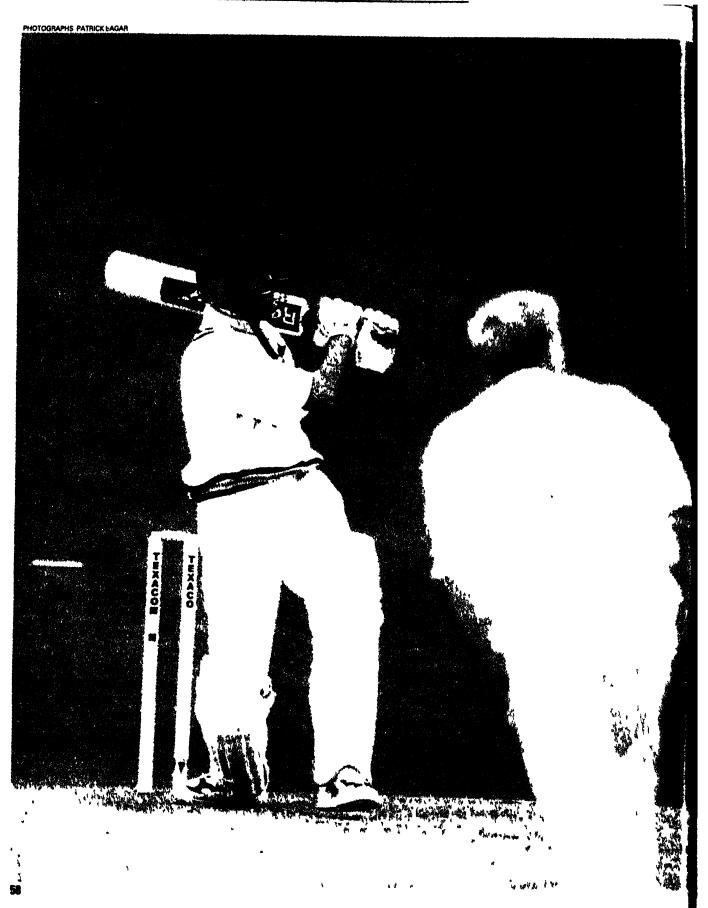
Mohammad Azharuddin shook his head disconsolably. He looked up at the stands, a sad smile across his face. He knew, like everybody else, that it was probably the last time he was leaving the most hallowed circle of cricket: The Lord's. It indeed was a sorry sight.

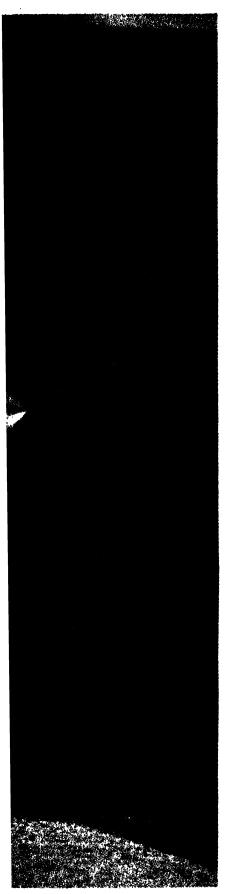
More so, because he was not leaving in glory. He was leaving amidst a barrage of criticism that not only questioned his recent contributions as a batsman, but also argued if he had become incongruous to a young Indian team, which largely represents a whole new generation of Indian cricket. Mohammad Azharuddin could now be yesterday's man.

It is a unique, and yet a rather predominant part of cricket that the game revolves so inexorably around certain key personalities. As Imran Khan said, "Carrette is so









Mohammad Azharuddin was in poor form during the series. Picture shows him in action against Peter Martin at Headingley. Somehow, the delicate, wristy strokeplay was completely missing from his batting

personality-oriented, so skipper-dependent that the captain's performance is always under constant scrutiny." At the moment, that scrutiny does show Mohammad Azharuddin in rather poor light.

The primary reason why cricket forces the skipper into such an unenviable position is that the game itself is highly individualistic. Almost every player out there in the middle leaves such an unmistakable stamp of his personality and his abilities. The

victories that he secured for India (though on hopelessly spinning home tracks, which have not been quite helpful for India's cricketing future) are a record that even overshadowed the achievements of one of his most illustrious contemporaries, Sunil Gavaskar, and of course, Tiger Pataudi.

But that no longer conceals his deficiencies as a man-manager, as a source of inspiration, particularly on this tour. He has all along looked

The look of a condemned man. He needs a break from cricket; he needs time to re-think his career; and finally, he needs to spend a lot of time on the practise pitch



game cannot but be constantly influenced by each person's cricketing characteristics, his strengths and weaknesses. This is not so much exposed in any other team game, like, for instance, soccer. The catalyst that brings about the crystallisation of these individual traits into a compact team effort is the captain.

The big question now is: Does Azharuddin live up to those requirements anymore?

Mohammad Azharuddin does have an impressive record as India's cricket captain. He has been on this job for seven long years, longer than any of his predecessors. The twelve Test forlorn, aloof and distant from a young side, that could have particularly benefited from his vast experience.

He has all along been like that.

Agreed. Communications skills have never been his forte. His critics know that; deep down he himself is aware of that too, I am sure. But, for a long time, this shortcoming of his did not affect the side very seriously simply because even, in the not-too-distant past, the Indian cricket team was star-studded. Experienced, established, confident cricketers could very well take care of themselves, realise their importance in the side.



their duties, their strengths and weaknesses and how to make the best contribution to the side.

As captain, Mohammad
Azharuddin was the first among
equals, rather than what he is now; a
skipper who was supposed to
shepherd a young Indian side, raring
to make its mark on the Test scene. He
was supposed to be a beacon to a
bunch of young men to show them
where they are heading. It was a much
more difficult job than before. For
Azharuddin, it proved doubly difficult
simply because he did not seem to be
quite cut out for the job, with his
palpably insular, introvert, almost

cocooned individualism.

His only alternative was to lead by example to prove that his credentials were beyond any doubt. But, unfortunately, here too, his performance did not quite evoke much respect, as a series of batting failures further worsened Azharuddin's woes. It left India vulnerable, even to a mediocre England side, now pleasantly surprised by the easy time offered by the tourists.

Azharuddin's frustrations were clearly telling on his temperament, further worsening his rapport with the young members of his side. After

the disastrous loss against Derbyshire, Azharuddin 'exploded' in the dressing room, harshly criticising his teammates for the debacle. He threatened to take a very hard line against his faltering, floundering teammates.

Surprisingly, this closed-door dressing room incident came to light thanks to Sandip Patil, the Indian manager. The Press made a feast of it, but it was a rather unhealthy, unwelcome 'leak'. The Indian manager Patil obliged the Press by saying, "The captain completely lost his cool and lashed out. He will take a very hard line between now and the



second Test with the complete support of the management. It's the only way."

From this, you can easily get the impression that Mohammad Azharuddin was struggling to keep a rebellious team in control. Was that the case? If it was, it raises serious questions about Azharuddin's acceptability as a captain.

If not, why should the captain have to lambast his team members in such a harsh manner and further demoralise his young side? After all, Mohammad Azharuddin had come to England as the skipper of the Indian cricket team, not as its headmaster.

Or did he notice a deliberate lack of application among his teammates who have already learnt to take their place in the side for granted? Mohammad Azharuddin has surely not been handed over a team selected by others. He has always played quite a dominant role in team selection, made his points in no uncertain terms, insisted that the selectors do go by his preferences. In nine cases out of ten, he did have his way. So, there is no scope for him to say this was not the team he wanted.

So, why did he have to 'explode' to inspire a team of his own choice?
Well, how wise the choice has really

Anil Kumble (left) and Sachin Tendulker in conversation The former had a poor series while Tendulker was at his brilliant best. During the series, Bradman mentioned that Tendulker resembled him the most as a batsman. A signal honour for the young geniu

been can definitely be questioned. Already, criticisms are being heard from many a knowledgeable quarter about the selection of this touring team.

India's weakness has been particularly exposed in its bowling. The emphasis on spin hasn't cut much ice; it was rather puzzling how the Indians chose to have four spinners on board, and lesser number of seamers for touring England in the early part of the summer. This was the time when the seamers can get the ball off the wicket far more easily and effectively than in the latter part of the season. The fact that the selectors called Salil Ankola in to replace Sidhu clearly indicated that the five wise men were making a last-ditch effort to rectify their error, a little too late in the day, though.

Moreover, Kumble has been hopelessly out of form. The grass on some of the English wickets was not going to help a leg-spinner like him anyway. Anil Kumble's discomfiture for the most part of the tour was the most painful experience of this Indian tour. This man has raised great expectations; this brilliant young cricketer toiled ceaselessly to get his magic back, yet circumstances were against him. One wonders whether this basic fact of cricket was understood by the Indian captain.

By contrast, the man who, in all likelihood, would have been of great use could not even make this tour. The Indian selectors and, of course, Azharuddin himself did not think much of his impressive record as an allrounder. The advantage of having Manoj Prabhakar on the side would have been his experience of English conditions. More importantly, he would have been very useful as the first change seam bowler.

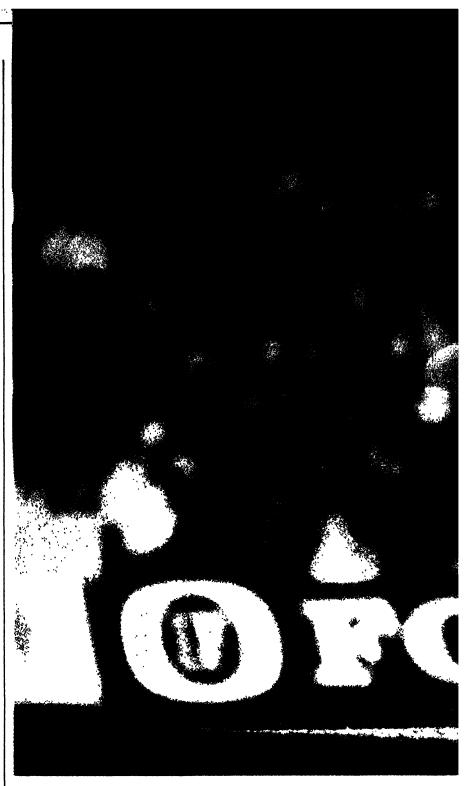
The very fact that he did not get a berth in the team, thanks mainly to the skipper's lack of faith in him, once again reflects considerable discredit

Sidhu quit cricket. The rap fell on Azhar. Picture shows Sidhu in his last match in England. Bowled by Lewis in the Texaco Trophy one-day match at The Oval, he scored just 3

on Azharuddin's captaincy. Firstly, Azharuddin, and the selectors too, failed to see his usefulness in a series that started in the first half of the English cricketing season when, as I said before, the ball seams off the wicket far more than in the latter half of it. More disturbingly, his usefulness as a batsman was overlooked.

Worst of all, the manner in which Prabhakar was discarded exposed the insensitivity with which the matter was handled by the selectors and Azharuddin. The strongest case against Prabhakar, of course, was that he was severely punished by Sri Lanka's Jayasuriya during India's disappointing retreat from the World Cup. But even that could hardly. justify the unceremonious manner in which he was dropped from the touring side. It was the skipper's responsibility to make sure that Prabhakar did not feel hurt when he was dropped after a remarkably long and successful stint with the Indian side. Prabhakar was humiliated, undoubtedly, and that can now be seen as a prelude to what was going to happen to Naviyot Singh Sidhu, one of the most indispensable members of this Indian side. Dishonourable treatment of valuable players seemed to have been quite a practice in the Indian side for quite some time. Mohammad Azharuddin cannot possibly deny his responsibility in this rather sordid episode.

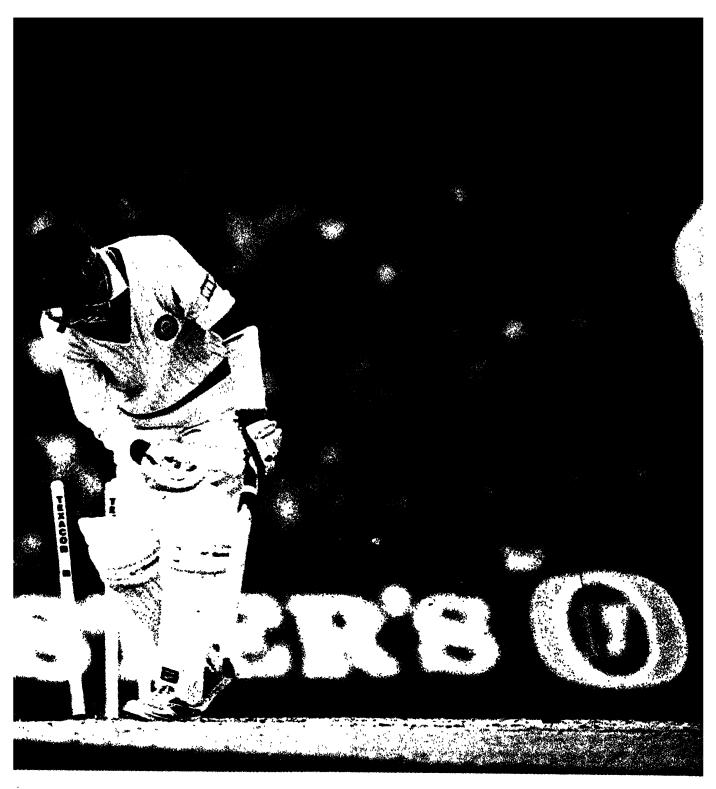
The Indian team will, for some time, be smarting from the abrupt departure of Sidhu. The very fact that such a thing happened showed the present Indian cricket management in extremely poor light. The Patil-Nagraj duo must have been aware of the trouble that had been brewing between this very talented batsman and skipper Azharuddin. But they chose to look the other way till the matter actually hit flashpoint. When it was beyond their control, they simply said the incident was 'unfortunate'.



Yes, it was unfortunate, indeed, but the misfortune was not providential; it was man-made. The present Indian management owes the public an explanation for their failure to stop it.

Then there is the case for Vinod Kambli. This exciting young player would definitely have been an asset, simply because he is a potential match-winner in any circumstances. Now that Saurav Ganguly has made his mark so remarkably and historically does he make up for the gap left by Kambli's absence to some extent; the fact remains that Kambli, would definitely have been a strong point, rather than a liability.

Fortunately, Kambli's closest mate Sachin Tendulkar continued to be his brilliant self for the most part of the



highly forgettable series, not only in the department of batting but also as the man next in line for the captain's mantle.

There was no mistaking the growing confidence in him as he constantly tried to inspire the bowlers, while fielding at mid-on. He tried to live up to the expectations and reach greater heights in all matches, Test

and one-day. In this role, he looked more and more captain-like than ever before. He obviously could not make up for the skipper's shortcomings, but the prognosis was clear. The future of India's cricket team was going to be in very strong and reliable hands, once the present crisis is over.

Come September and one hopes, it will all be sorted out in the best

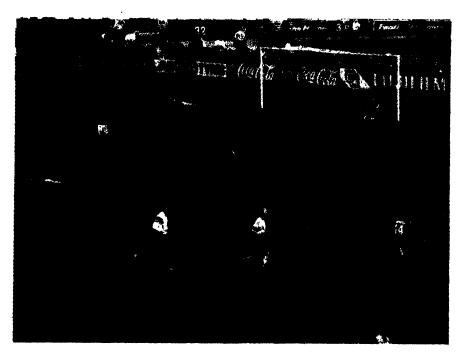
interests of Indian cricket. The old order will have to give way to the new. Mohammad Azharuddin will be relieved of the painful assignment that made him look like such a condemned man when, probably for the last time, he said goodbye to the Mecca of cricket.

It is time we recognised the truth and gave cricket a new lease of life.

Displaying their traditional strength and character, the Germans won the European Cup amidst great resistance

PROFESSIONALS!

PHOTOGRAPHS: COLORSPORT





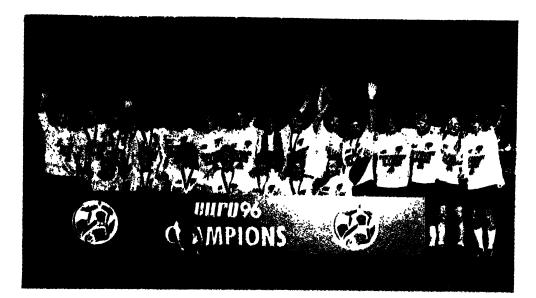
And the band played on...after the tournament was finally over, performers carry segments of a tootball which finally merged

The agony and the ecstasy: While Germans celebrate their victory through the 'golden goal', the vanquished Czech players cannot believe their fate



The game's up: Petr Kouba, the Czech republic goalkeeper, is consoled by teammate Scimer





The winners take it all! Germany are finally the proud winners of Euro '96







Rewards of success. Juergen Klinsmann, the victorious captain, is introduced to HRH the Queen of England N a cool, cloudy Sunday evening, I went and sat down on a bench in a park. The leaves on the trees looked a bright green, as monsoon rain had washed away all the dust. There was the chirp of sparrows and the cawing of crows. Children were running about on the grass, watched by mothers, gossiping on nearby benches. A group of athletes, wearing white shorts and red t-shirts, were running around the perimeter of the park.

Watching the athletes, my mind, in these tranquil surroundings, went back to an incident in the past. Years ago, when I had just finished my class ten, and thinking that I possessed a talent for running, having won a few school-level medals, I decided to pursue a career in athletics. After some initial enquiries, I was told that I had to contact the IAWB—The Institute Of Athletics, West Bengal. They trained their athletes on the maidan.

One hot summer evening, I went to the maidan dotted with its several club tents. I had to ask club members here and there, before I finally managed to locate the place where the athletes of the IAWB were training.

It was a small ground, framed by tram tracks on one side and a busy road on the other. There were a mixed group of boys and girls. The girls, surprisingly, looked quite unsexy in their shorts.

I watched the practise silently. A couple of the boys did 400m runs, sprinting at the end. Another group of boys and girls ran fast down the field. They walked back. Then they ran fast again.

After the practise was over, the athletes, chattering noisily, went back into the tent. Staying behind and sitting on the grass were a group of four men. They were indulging in the Bengali's favourite pastime—the adda. Mustering courage, I walked up to them. I asked them whether they were coaches of the IAWB. They replied in the affirmative.

"I want to be an athlete," I said simply, "so is it possible for me to train here?"

"What's your name?" one coach asked in a loud, rude voice. I still remember his face. Square-jawed, with a small stubble on his chin, his eyes large and round, thick lips, a rather short man.

"My name is Sebastian," I replied.
"Sebastian," the man snorted,
"what do you think you want to be?
Another Sebastian Coe?"

The other coaches burst out laughing. I felt my cheeks getting flushed and hot with a sense of humiliation. The first coach had spoken in such a terribly sarcastic



Not many people can achieve the dream of running for their country

manner, that, in that instant, I decided to give up on being an athlete. That was how traumatic that sarcastic retort had been on me. It left a scar on my soul. Later, when I grew a bit more older, I was amazed at myself. How quickly I had given up on this deeply felt wish of becoming an athlete, with the eventual dream of running for India.

Years later, one evening, after work, while I was going past on the bike, I spotted the coach once again. He was still coaching on that same patch of ground. I stopped the bike. I went in and sat down. I watched him

coach. He had a sarcastic tone throughout the hour of coaching that I witnessed. He seemed to be doing the job, not because he loved it, but because he was forced to do it. He had no passion for it. It was clear that he was a shoddy, third class coach. His pals, the other coaches, must have been of the same standard, since Bengal has hardly produced any great athlete in the past several decades.

The death of dreams is a terrible thing to face. When you are young, you feel that you can achieve anything in the world. But then life knocks you down. People with their sarcastic tongues knock you down. You are damaged.

Sadly, in India, an articulation of a dream by a young person is met with ridicule and scorn. "Concentrate on your studies" is the standard reaction The result is that a lot of people get crushed. They become angry, bitter and frustrated. Maybe, the sarcastic coach was a victim of a broken dream himself.

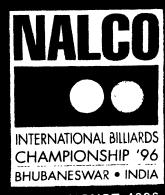
However, sitting in the park, in the evening, I am surrounded by hope. Mothers look at their children with hope. Hope, that in future, their children will become successful people. (Although, I remember, when I was a child, in the same park, one such mother had also looked at her only son with great hope and love. Tragically, her son, my childhood friend and playmate, ended up as a hopeless drug addict.) Athletes run with the hope that one day, they will become successful. Some of them may be even secretly dreaming of running for India in the Olympic Games. Hope and dreaming all around, while here I was, a numbed victim of hopes and dreams.

I wonder how many of these young people will be able to achieve their dreams? Will they also end up like me, forlorn and alone, on a park bench, with their dreams shattered?

Somehow, I feel justified in my apprehension. In the India and especially in the Bengal of the present moment, it's clearly a bleak time for dreams.

Shevlin Sebastian

* MIKE RUSSELL MANOJ KOTHARI SONIC MULTANI MICHAEL FERREIRA **GEET SETHI** IAN WILLIAMSON **ROXTON CHAPMAN** S B AGRAWAL NALIN PATEL D JOSHI NORMAN DAGLEY Md ASIM ASHOK SHANDILYA **CHRIS SHUTT** DAVID CAUSIER **NEIL CROFT** DANIK LUCAS DAVID MEREDITH **DEREK GIBB** MARK WILDMAN PETER GILCHRIST K H SIRISOMA **HENRY BOTEJU** PAUL MIFSUD ALFRED MICALLEF TERRY RAILLY MOH LOON HONG AIDAN MURREY



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* The names are not in order of ranking

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Donovan Bailey is the fastest man in the world

HYPE AND HOOP-LA

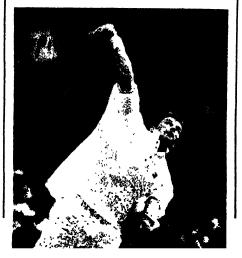
he Dream Team's campaign for a second successive Olympic gold medal was an exercise in sheer boredom

RICHARD THE LIONHEART

Wimbledon champion Richard rajicek is ready to steamfoll the opposition at the U.S.Open







CARL LEWIS: KING OF THE **LONG JUMP**

ATLANTA OLYMPICS: A **PHOTO FEATURE**

COLD WAR: PART II

NO PAYNE, NO GAIN

TRADING PLACES

PROFESSIONAL TENNIS PLAYERS ARE NOT **OLYMPIANS**

ATLANTA DIARY

THE IMRAN KHAN/BOTHAM LIBEL SUIT

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY ACTION PLUS

AND STILL CHAMP

That's CARL LEWIS for you. The winner and by a long shot

ND finally Carl Lewis did it again. Again? Just in case you have been woefully out of sync with the Games, you might want to change the

word again to 'four times in a row'. I mean, who writes his script? Just when almost everybody in the athletics world said that Carl Lewis was a has-been, he goes and wins the long jump and even goes a step further to whip up public passion about wanting to be part of the U.S.

4 X 100m relay team!

Nothing—that is terrestrial or extra-terrestrial was going to keep

Lewis from claiming that he was the greatest track and field athlete of all time. The fact is there was a faint chance that Lewis knew he was there already. Maybe he wanted to establish this fact on his own terms. Maybe his ninth gold medal was going to help in silencing all the critics.

It did, and how.

So how did a veteran of Lewis' stature react to the leat? Well, he first



tried to forge a mental link between the two summer Games that have been hosted by the U.S.A. Carl Lewis first served the world with evidence of his talent at the LA Games in 1984. He then served his fans with proof of his unrivalled greatness at the Atlanta Games in 1996. Lewis, in trying to form a mental picture of his achievements, rated his final one the best: his fourth consecutive gold medal in the long jump. And in the process of doing so, he said, "I'm just trying to figure out how all of you got into my dream. I don't remember getting up this morning. "

One thing's for sure, Carl Lewis wasn't in a daze when he turned up for the men's long jump final. True enough, he put in a respectable 27 leet, 10 and three fourths of an inch in his third attempt. After that, the King

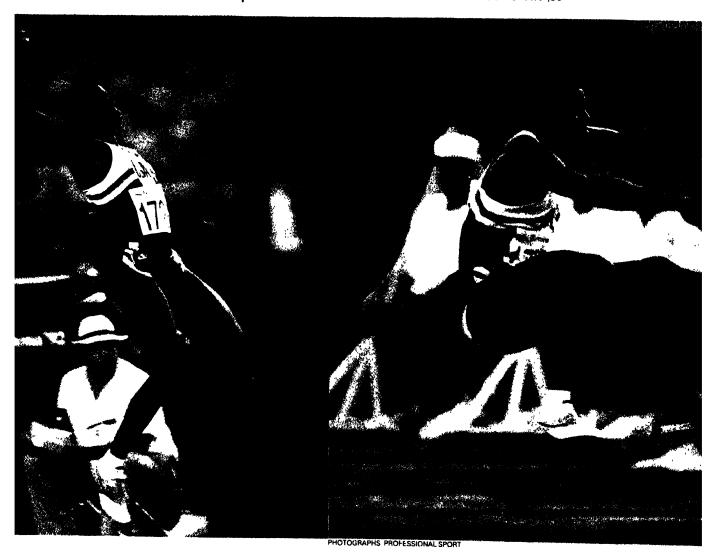
sat back and watched all the rest of his subjects line up one by one and try to better that.

No one did. And when one of the most eagerly awaited track and field events of all time came to an end, Lewis drove home the fact that when it came to the long jump, he was unparalled. The rest were just tourists...pretenders. And then the King bent down with all the humility that he could muster, picked up some sand in a plastic bag and waved it to the crowd as a symbol of his triumph. Lewis can be spared his theatrics simply because what he had done on that action packed evening in Atlanta may not be matched for some time to come.

Four consecutive Olympic gold medals in the long jump. Nine overall Olympic gold medals. Is Carl Lewis for real?

"I don't see how I can top this," he said. "The ninth one is the most special. It took the most focus. It took the most pain. And it could not have happened without a lot of support. You don't want the Olympic moments to end, but I wanted that competition to be over after the third round. I was thinking, let's get this thing over with." And with his feelings put into perspective Lewis was off in the traditional flag-waving ceremony that is the right for every athlete who wins an Olympic gold medal. On his way round the track, Lewis slowed down a bit to hug civil rights leader Jesse Jackson. And with those formalities out of the way Carl Lewis disappeared into the athletes' tunnel for one last time, not just as a winner but as a legend. -

Robin Chatteriee





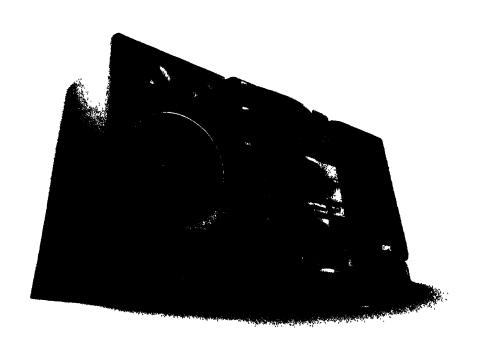
THE MAGIC OT MUSIC



It could be the high point of Handel's Hallelujah. Or the tremulous flute of Hari Prasad Chaurasia. Then again, it could be Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan jamming with Eddie Vedder.

Or the incessant, wailing, shrieking guitar of Santana. No matter what you listen to, there's just no ignoring the searing intensity of a brilliant performance.

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ACHIPPI AVAY AT TIME

Over the years, world records in most events have been steadily eroded.

An analysis of the reasons behind this

BY UDAY & CHAKRABORTY

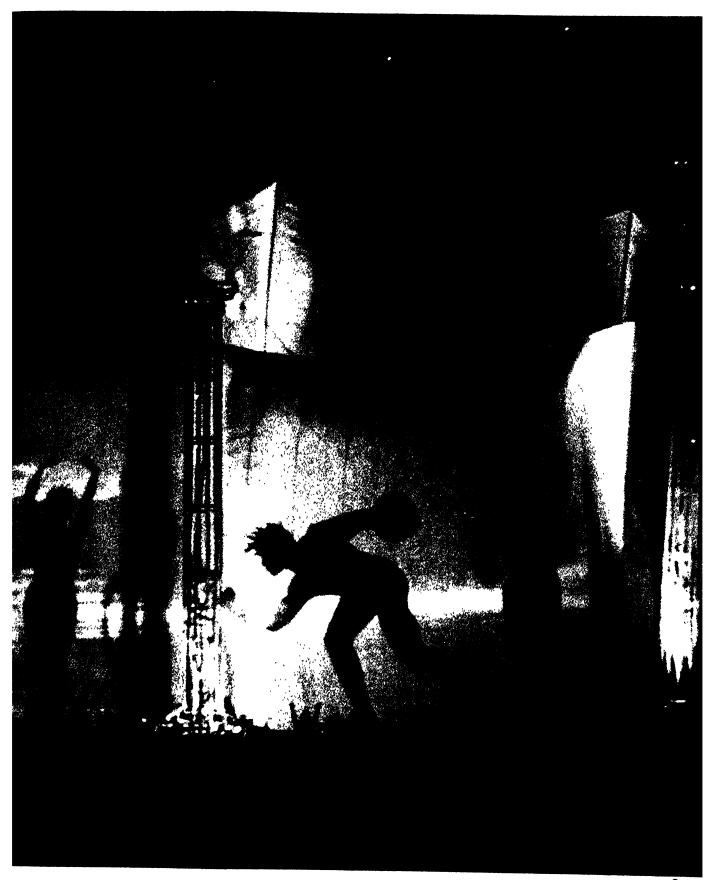
now over. The action and tension, the pomp and grandeur of the Olympics have come to an end. What remains with us are some spectacular images of sporting personalities and their amazing feats.

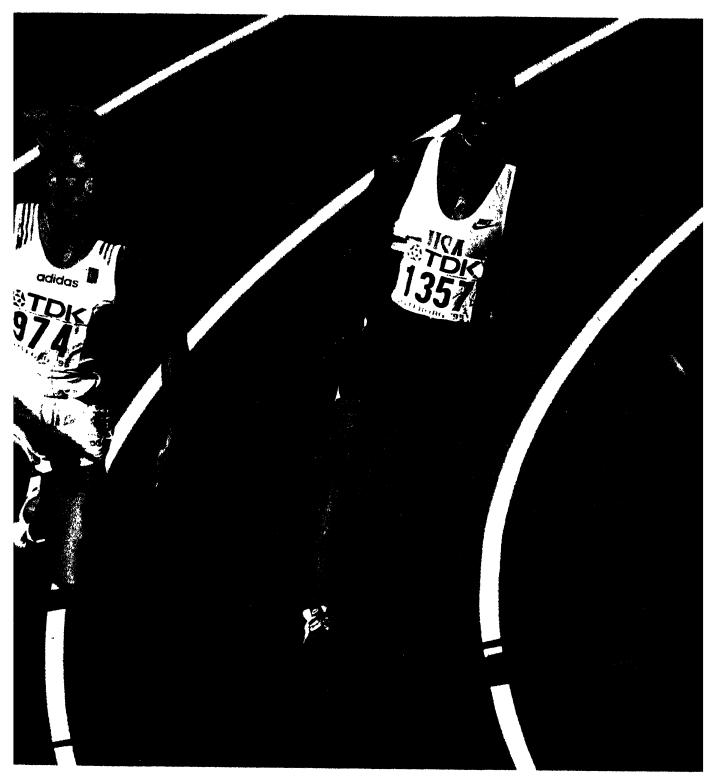
The history of the human race has always been one of moving into new frontiers. In sports, unlike in other fields, human achievement can be measured quite precisely.

Let us have a look at how athletes have been improving their performances over the course of time. In the 100 metre dash, in the 1896 Athens Games, the timing was 12.0 sec. In 1968 (Mexico Games), Jim Hines broke the 10 sec. barrier. Now, the record is inching forward consistently with time. The 100 metre race has been run in 9.87 sec. in 1992; 9.86 sec. in 1994 and now in 9.84 sec. by Donovan Bailey at Atlanta. Is it unrealistic to believe that in the next century someone will run it in 9.5 sec.?

Similarly, the women's world record in the 100m has improved







Michael Johnson lived upto expectations by winning the 200m and the 400m, a feat never performed in any Olympics

from 11.78 sec. to 10.49 sec. which was set in 1988 by Florence Griffith Joyner. In the decathlon the 1922 A COM

world record was 6087 points. It has been improved to 8891 points, the world record set in 1992 by Dan O'Brien. In 1920, the world record in the featherweight category weightlifting was 220 kilos, and now it

stands at a whopping 319.72 kilos.

In swimming, there has also been a remarkable improvement in the timings. In 1932, the 200m freestyle swimming record for men was 2 min. 13.5 sec.; the current record stands at

PROFESSIONAL SPORT

1 min.46.7 sec. The corresponding figures for women are 2 min. 38 sec./ 1 min. 46.7 sec. In both the cases, there has been a 25 per cent improvement, which is quite amazing.

In events where there has been a

technical breakthrough in equipment, the improvement has been even more striking.

For example: in 1912, the pole vault record was 4 metres. In 1963, it was raised to the 5-metre level. Then, with the help of fibre glass poles (in place of the earlier bamboo poles), Sergei Bubka broke the 6-meter barrier (6.11 is the current record).

Similarly, the new aerodynamically designed javelin helped us to improve the record from 54.82 metres in 1908 to over 90 metres now. (Both Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic and Steve Backley of Britain have thrown the javelin 90m-plus).

Apart from the technological improvement and new techniques, three other factors have helped

Marie Jose Perec is the reigning queen of the track, having won a 'double' in the 200 and the 400m at Atlanta

COLORSPORT

enhance the performances in sport. They are a) commercialisation, b) competition c) sheer human genius.

Commercialisation has vastly improved the incentive level of athletes. Many have obtained immense riches through their sporting abilities, which otherwise would have been beyond their reach.

Also, the spirit of competition always generates amazing results. The great tussle between Carl Lewis and Mike Powell resulted in the setting of a new world record of 8.95 metres in the long jump by Mike Powell, a couple of years ago, breaking Bob Beamon's 1968 record of 8.90m.

Then there are sporting geniuses and their constant endeavour to push the limits. Some of the great athletes have already reached a standard, supposed to have been possible only in the next century. According to the





Den O'Brien lived up to his reputation and won the decathlon with ease

experts, Beamon's 1968 long jump record was not supposed to have been broken in the twentieth century. Sergei Bubka is also ahead of his time with a world record of 6.11m in the pole vault. Their achievements have proved the experts wrong time and again. Ultimately, it is the desire in the athletes mind which triumphs.

Still experts, supported by scientists and computers, try to predict the possible level of human performance based on past performance, and on the physiological, pedagogical and technical factors. But, as already indicated, their predictions have been surpassed by the extraordinary endeavour of sporting genius. The athletes and other sportspersons simply break their own barrier. For them, there is no limit, no end to their quest for moving onward.

"The record breakers are unique people," according to Britain's Sebastian Coe, once the world record holder in the 800m, "They drive themselves remorselessly to a common but unachievable goal in whatever is their chosen event. Unachievable? Yes, because it is not just a record they are after—they are pursuing the ultimate in excellence which can never be reached."

All this is done in the certain knowledge that the record will only be borrowed, because they know that sometime in the future, somebody else who is equally great will come along and shatter it. This is because there is no limit to human aspirations, mental or physical.

In the final analysis, therefore, it would be right to say that it is actually the mind which triumphs. Despite the hard, technically supported training, modern technology, new techniques and advances in nutritional and medical science, the ultimate factor which really makes the difference is.....the human spirit to move onward.

The flame in the cauldron at the Atlanta Centennial Stadium has been extinguished. But, the flame of the human spirit keeps burning within ourselves.

Champions Choice



COLD WA **PART II**

The battle for supremacy between the USA and Russia has begun yet again. This time the war is restricted to the sporting arena

 HE Olympic Games are more than just a sporting event. It is a jamboree of athletes from diverse cultures, from

different socio-economic and political backgrounds, all of them competing for excellence in their field. Together with the opening and closing ceremonies, the actual sporting events and the cultural extravaganza, the Centennial Olympics at Atlanta became the most conspicuous event of the year.

Yet Russia had thrown the gauntlet to the USA as the two athletic superpowers battled it out for supremacy in the various disciplines at the Games. "The host nation as usual will be our most formidable rival, and we will be well prepared for the challenge, "said Arfatoli Kolessov, a gold medallist in wrestling at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and head of the Russian Atlanta '96 committee, adding, "But we will do our best to emulate the triumphs of the Soviet era.

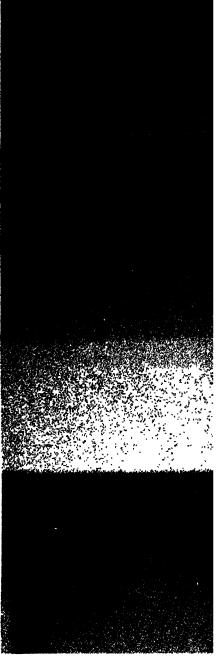
Just as in the Soviet era, the nation's Olympic coaches and officials huddled in Moscow and came up with a pre-Games forecast: a haul of at least 30 gold medals and definite runners-up to the Americans in the medals race. That would be a big leap over the 1992 Barcelona Games, when Russian athletes wrested 17 of the 45 gold medals up for grabs by the unified team of ex-Soviet Republics.

More than two dozen current or

former Olympic and world champions were in the over 400-strong contingent. And their brilliant performances came from track and field events, swimming, wrestling, boxing and gymnastics. At the end of the the Centennial Olympic Games, the present Russian team was strikingly different from the generic Soviet heroes cranked out by the big Red sports machine of past decades.

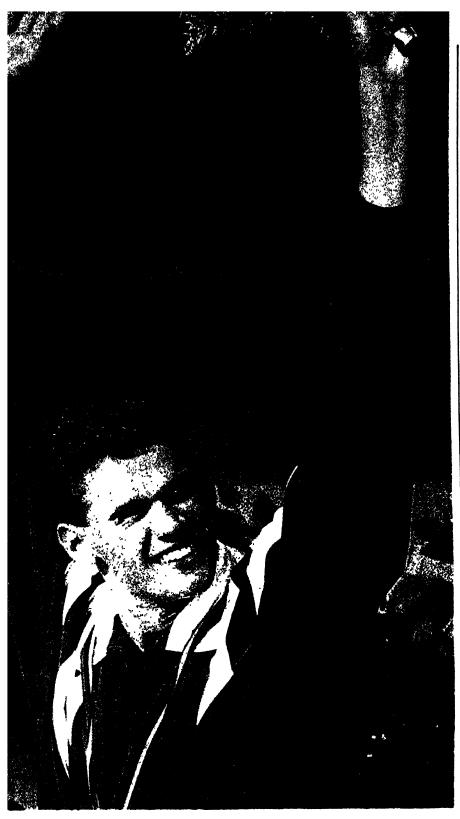
One swimmer had showed up for team blessing by a Russian Orthodox priest with the Reebok logo shaved into the side of his head. Top sprinter Irina Privalova spoke glowingly of the great training support she's had from Nike International. Volleyball player Pavel Shishkin was eager to talk about the government-paid bonuses awaiting Russian medallists—\$50,000 for gold, \$20,000 for silver and \$10,000 for bronze. And Alexander Popov, the world's premier short distance swimmer, who doesn't even live in Russia, another big no-no in Soviet times, who has a home in Australia was lording it over the rest of his rivals.

Unlike Barcelona, when funds got exhausted and post-Soviet shock affected everything, money is now in abundance for top flight Russian athletes and freedom means being able to line up a lat private sponsorship and your own coach. " The situation in Russia is not so bad as it was before," said Privalova, a double | Atlanta, had even cut off her long,



medallist at Barcelona. The sportsman now is free, he can prepare for the Olympic games himself....I hope it will be even better for the next generation."

Privalova, Russia's most popular track & field star, before going to



flowing locks to try and beat the heat and also improve her chances of doing well in the 100 and 200m. "To win the Olympics, nothing should distract me," said the Muscovite who had done all her training in the Russian capital this year. However, Privalova had finished fifth in the 100m at the Centennial Games.

For the current Olympics Russia had sent three world- record holders to represent them in swimming: Popov, butterfly specialist Denis Pankratov and backstroker Vladimir Selkov. The 24-year-old Popov, who had won the 50m and 100m freestyle

Alexander Popov, the best short distance swimmer, lived up to expectations at the Centennial Olympics when he won his pet events.

gold medals at Barcelona, did an encore in both his pet events at Atlanta. Super heavyweight wrestler Alexander Karelin has never been beaten in foreign competitions and is considered the best Greco Roman exponent of all time. But the bear-like Siberian had to grapple with the obstinate challenge from American Matt Ghaffari enroute to his gold medal. "It's more difficult to reach the top for the third time," said the unassuming Karelin after finally clinching victory and remaining invincible.

Nikolai Parkhomenko, a Russian Olympic Committee official and former Soviet wrestler, said that the team for the Centennial Games had improved significantly as compared to what it was four years ago when it had to go through financial constraints and other difficulties. Based on the nation's athletic history, Mr. Parkhomenko optimistically said that Russia would soon claim an unquestioned status as the world's No.1 sporting power.

It was the first time Russia participated in a Summer Olympics as a single country since the break up of the Soviet Union in December 1991. Russia's medal hopes at Atlanta were based on the showing at the Barcelona Games, when it competed along with other former Soviet republics as part of the Commonwealth of Independent states (CIS).

This time the squad had performed encouragingly and the NOC had to pay out a record sum in bonuses. In fact, Russia's champions from the Barcelona Olympics received only \$15,000, but winners this time were rewarded amounts 400 times more than the average monthly wage in Russia. Just goes on to prove that money can act as the greatest motivator. Russian sport certainly seems to be headed in the right direction and who knows they could well become the major sporting giant in the near future.

T.S.Venkataraman



IGREASED LIGHTNING!

Canada's DONOVAN BAILEY streaked across the track to win the 100m gold at the Atlanta Olympics, leaving a world class field in his wake

T was a situation that taxed the calmest of people. Three false starts in the 100m. Three times the athletes had to run down the track, then ease up and walk back. And along with the third false start, there was controversy. Linford Christie was disqualified for two false starts. Petulantly, he refused to leave the track. The minutes ticked away. A race which was supposed to take less than ten seconds, was now 480 seconds behind schedule.

At this moment, if you had looked at Canada's Donovan Bailey, you would have got this picture: somebody calm and serene. He did not listen nor look at Linford Christie haranguing the light-green suited official saying that he had not beaten the gun. Instead, Bailey just stared ahead, at the tape at the other end. He knew that he had to run the fastest race of his life if he wanted to win. Simply because the field was loaded with talent: Frankie Fredericks of Namibia, Ato Boldon of Trinidad, Dennis Mitchell and Mike Marsh (both of the USA), Davidson Ezinwa of Nigeria and Jamaica's Michael Green.

At last, the perfect start. Frankie Fredericks of Namibia was off the blocks like a rocket. Then came Ato Boldon. And what about Bailey? He was slow, too slow off the blocks. In

Donovan Bailey: all muscle and fire. First the World Champion; now the Olympic champion.

mid race, Fredericks was leading. Boldon was second. Marsh was also ahead of Bailey. It was then that Bailey began to shift into another gear. His shifting, however, was explosive. He surged into the lead and hit the tape in an astonishing world record time of 9.84 secs. Donovan Bailey had become the Olympic champion. Don't lorget that he is also the world champion. He looked at the clock, he hugged his daughter and later, he said, "Oh God, that was my time. I didn't realise it."

Donovan Bailey was born in Manchester, Jamaica. When he was 14, his parents emigrated to Canada. Initially, he was attracted to basketball. He played one season with Sheridan College in Oakville. But he realised that he would never be a world class basketballer. So he quit basketball. He went into business as a marketing and investment consultant. By the age of 22, he owned a house and had bought himself a Porsche 911 convertible.

"I could have left high school and run track right away but that wasn't what I wanted," he told Sports Illustrated "I wanted a nice house, money, fast cars. I was taught to work real hard, to work on my own. When I got the material things I wanted, I turned back to sprinting. But I think it worked against me. Coaches resented me. I think it was because I was a 22-year-old with a Porsche and they

were 35-year-old men driving station wagons."

The other problem was that he didn't have a good relationship with Athletics Canada, the governing body of athletics in his country. They did not pick him for the 1991 World Championships at Tokyo; then he was dropped from the team going to the Barcelona Games in 1992. He was selected for the '93 Stuttgart World Championships, but then was dropped as a member of the relay team. Bailey went mad. He began to complain to everyone in earshot. Dan Pfaff, a University of Texas assistant, who was standing nearby, asked him what the problem was. Bailey told him. Pfaff invited him to come train under him. So Bailey moved to Baton Rouge and started training under Pfaff.

In the beginning, Bailey had a lot of problems. He did have the talent but as Pfaff recalled, "He was out of shape. He was also a nightmare from the biochemical standpoint. One foot splayed out 30 degrees, the other 25. He dragged one leg when he ran, his head was back, he wasn't breathing and his arms flailed. He was more of a project than I thought."

But bit by bit, Pfaff began to work on Bailey, forced him to do weights, corrected his running style, improved on his techniques, worked incessantly on his starts and the result: he began to shave hundredths of seconds from



Ben Johnson: the shame of Secul devactated Canada. Bailey is finding it an uphili task to ge respect for black sprinting champions

the 100m timing. The athletics world was still skeptical about his talent. Then Bailey won one of the biggest prizes in athletics: the 100m world title in Gothenburg last year.

But people were still skeptical. "There were knowledgeable track people who think Gothenburg was a fluke," says Dan Pfalf, "call someone in England and they'll tell you the real sprinter, Linford, was hurt." It was this type of skepticism that Bailey has had to face.

Apart from that, he has to face the skepticism from his own countrymen. Canadians are wary of sprinters, especially 100m sprinters. Once upon a time, they had taken a world class sprinter by the name of Ben Johnson to their hearts. When he won the 100m gold at Seoul, the country exploded in joy. Including Donovan Bailey.

Donovan Bailey remembers that he was in a bar in Oakville. The bar was packed.

"I was shaking, sweating, my teeth were chattering," he recalled, "a lot of people felt that way. When Ben won, the whole place exploded."
But three days later, the nation fell to pieces. After that, athletics has never recovered from that shock. This is the problem that Bailey has been facing.

But Bailey is used to it. He says frankly, "Canada is as blatantly racist as the United States. We know it exists. People who don't appear to be Canadian (people of colour) don't get the same treatment. They associate with your parents' birthplace or your birthplace."

Now all this doesn't matter any more. He's the World Champion. Now he is the Olympic champion. If he continues to perform in this manner, it won't be long before the word 'great' is appended before his name.

READERS'

QUESTIONS

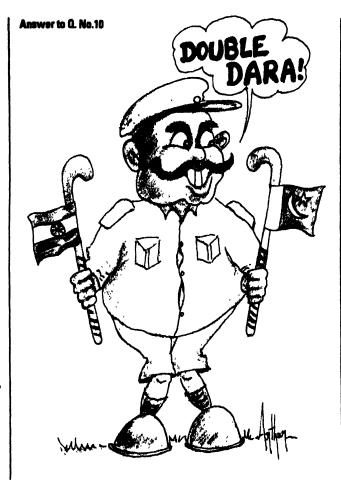
In which Olympic
Games was cricket
played as a sport?

Why was the venue of the 1908 Olympic Games changed from Rome to London?

When did a participating country march at the Olympics without their national flag?

Which Olympian of 1920 received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1959?

CARTOONS ARTHUR CARDOZO



- Who said, "To run, run a mile; but for the experience of another life, run a marathon"?
- What was the full name of Jesse Owens?
- Which Olympic . Games was known as the 'Happy Games?'
- What was the name of the terrorist outfit who massacred the Israelis at the Munich Games?
- Who said "100m seems like 10 hours long"?
- Name the
 Olympian who
 played for both India and
 Pakistan?
- Which was the first city to hold two Olympic Games?



ANSWERS

- 1. In Paris, in the 1900 Games.
- 2. Due to the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius.
- 3. Finland in the 1908 Games.
- 4. Philip Noel-Baker of Britain.
- 5. Emil Zatopek.
- 8. James Cleveland Owens.
- 7. The 1960 Tokyo Olympics.
- 8. The Black September movement.
- 9. Carl Lewis.
- 10. Col. Ali Shah Dara.
- 11. Paris (1900, 1924)

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



Prasun Barman, P.O.Bijni, DT.Bongaigaon, ASSAM - 783 390

I NO PAYNE, NO GA

BILLY PAYNE, the man behind the Atlanta Games, singlehandedly made it a success story. Well, more or less

HIS is the vision that came to 48-year-old Billy Payne. He had just returned from Sunday morning service. At breakfast, he turned to his wife and coolly said, "I am going to bring the Olympics Games to Atlanta."

Just consider his background and then you will understand what a preposterous statement it was: Billy Payne was an upper middle class attorney who lived in Atlanta. He had never been to an Olympic Games in his whole life. For that matter, he had never ever travelled abroad. Added to that was the fact that Atlanta had never bid for an Olympics before. No city in the last 50 years had won the right to stage the Games, without any previous experience. There was a school of thought subscribing to the view that the 1996 Centennial Games should be held in Athens, Greece, Not in Atlanta.

But Billy Payne did not think of the odds. All he had was his dream, for inspiration. He was going to do his damnednest to achieve it. So he began to travel all over the world. He began to court the members of the International Olympic Committee.

"I'd say to them," he recalled, "Hey King! Hey Prince! I want to be your friend. I want you to trust my city. I want you to come down and visit. I want you to get to know us and know that we want to bring honour and respect to the Olympic Games, Now, be my friend."

It sort of worked, you know. The

IOC finally granted the rights to the city, although local officials were skeptical. They made it clear that the local government would not underwrite the Games. Billy Payne replied that he didn't need it. He'd get the stupendous \$1.5 billion that was needed through corporate sponsorship. Payne announced that corporate sponsorships which had been bought for \$4 million in the '84 L.A.Games would now go for \$40 million each.

He then went about persuading executives of leading corporations to donate goods or pay anything between \$10 million and \$60 million apiece to be domestic 'partners' and 'sponsors'. The sales pitch was so good that 125 companies signed up to be product licencees.

Billy Payne's dream was slowly coming to fruition. As Andrew Young, the co-chairman of ACOG (Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games), who was mayor of Atlanta when Payne made his first approach to the council, said, "The thing that convinced me was the single-minded dedication I saw. I learned that Billy had actually quit his job and was spending his savings in pursuit of his goal.

"He'd had a heart attack, and he had the feeling that doing something for others was what life was really all about. 'I don't know what I am doing, he said, 'but I believe I can do it. I believe it with every ounce of strength I have.' It reminded me of the line

from the philosopher Kierkgaard that 'purity of heart is to will one thing.'"

Soon, a multi-billion dollar enterprise was born, 70,000 people were hired. This was three times more than the workforce of Delta Airlines. the largest private employer in Georgia. They had worked hard. driven by the ceaseless determination and hard work of Billy Payne. He used to land up at his office at 4 A.M. The result: he suffered a heart attack. The doctors told him to take it easy. He said yes. He now started to land up at the office at 5 A.M. It was this relentless driving spirit and inspiration that has enabled Atlanta to pull up its socks and present its best face to the world.

However, when the Olympics came around, things didn't go too well. Somehow, the pressure, the huge number of visitors, athletes and journalists staggered the organisers. There were complaints about the transport system collapsing. People were stranded at venues for hours together. A couple of judokas missed taking part in their events because they arrived late at the stadium. There were tales of chaos and computer failures. This overshadowed the sporting stories. The print media, with the tongue between their cheeks, described it as the 'the cock-up Games.'

Well, Billy Payne is not God. What he had achieved, that is, to bring the Games to Atlanta and more or less making it a success story certainly is a heroic achievement.

P.V Isaac

CARTOON BY ARTHUR CARDOZO



HYPE AND HOOP-LA >

The Dream Team's campaign for a second successive Olympic gold medal was an exercise in utter boredom



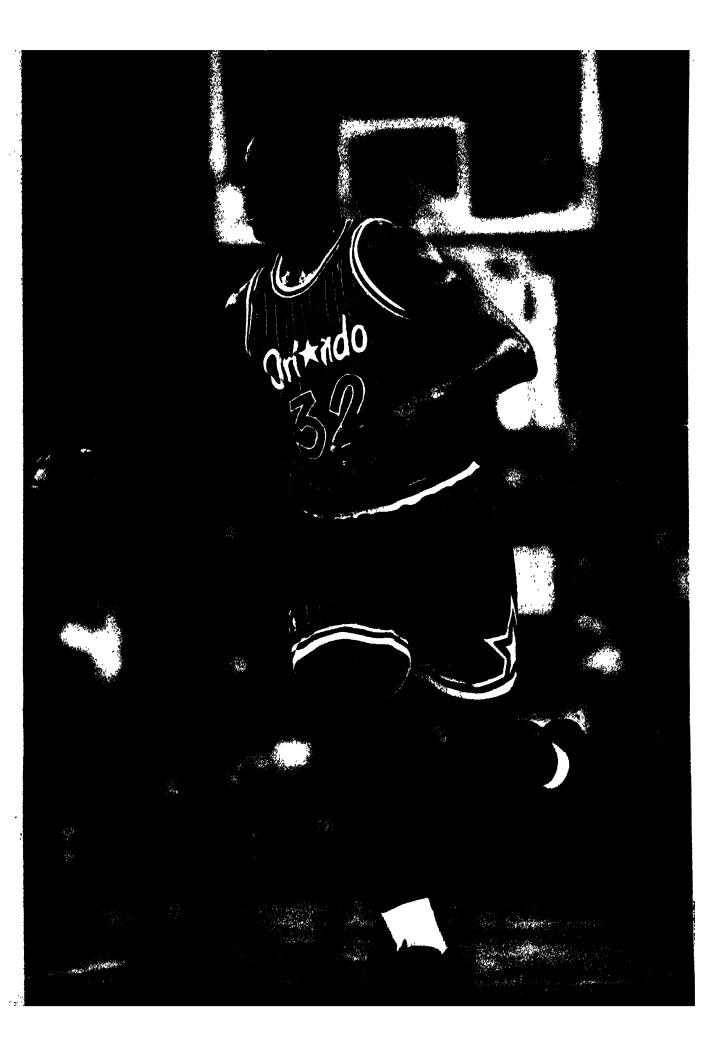
BY K.O.JACOB

"We might not make the best cars. We might not have the best swimmers or whatever in the world. But as far as basketball, that's something that I and we can control."—Charles Barkley, a player in the U.S basketball team at the start of the Atlanta Olympics.

all it arrogance. Call it brashness. Call it an attitude. Or, call it the symbolism of Dream Team II, a conglomerate of basketball millionaires from the United States defending the gold they won at Barcelona. But there was a marked difference from the team of '92. They had the attitude, but the personalities of Michael 'Air' Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird were missing and with their absence the charisma that was normally associated with the Dream Team was missing.

The fact that the Games were held in Atlanta did not improve things for the winningest basketball team on planet earth. The Americans already high on an overdose of NBA action on their cable networks did not seem too keen to waste their time or energy on watching their heroes at work in the Olympics. But the most important factor why the Yanks were not rooting for their team was because they did

Yawn....Though the Dream Team had superstars like Barkley (left) and Sheq O'Neil (facing page) they falled to enthuse the crowds



not see the point in being too vociferous about a team that was simply the best in the fray. Boring.

The basic rule of any sport dictates that there has to be competition and then there has to be an eventual winner and an eventual loser. But what happens when there is no competition, when one team is so far ahead of the others in terms of talent and experience that others have as much of a chance as a snowball in hell? Well, the spectators lose interest. The players in the Dream Team got these vibes very early on at Atlanta. After Shaq O'Neil threw down a vicious dunk against Argentina, he waved at the American crowd to arouse their patriotic passions. The response....zero.

What was the problem? It was just that the basketball was getting a little too boring, and there was no uncertainty in the whole affair. The only surety was that the U.S of A would retain the Olympic gold medal and for the spectators there would be no fun in watching their stars running around in what was a veritable slaughter house.

It was not just the money paying public who were disenchanted with Dream Team II, their opponents were also not too overawed by the towering presence of the world's best basketballers as they were in Barcelona. As Charles Barkley the mean bully of the All Star team said after their 87-54 victory against Angola, "These guys, they don't want to take pictures of us before the game anymore. They are not asking for autographs. They are trying to beat us. In the last two games, they weren't shaking like they did in the past." Worse still, some teams had even done their homework and had their brief moments of glory when they momentarily had the crowds involved in the game once again. Like Argentina for example who in their match against the Americans took an early lead and trailed just 2 points at half time. Of course, the United States rebounded to win 96-68 but according to the American coach Lenny Wilkens his team was





Michael Jorden: With his 'Airness' abstaining from the Games, the Dream Team lost much of its glamour

"embarassed" with their performance. The Dream Team were slowly losing their invincibility.

When the first Dream Team was formed for the '92 Olympics, the U.S. Olympic Committee had just one motive: to be the best once again in a game they had invented. Between 1936 and 1988 the United States compiled an Olympic basketball record of 85-2, winning 10 of a possible 12 gold medals. Then came the setbacks that put America in a state of shock. The USA was defeated not once, but twice and that too by the enemy: the erstwhile USSR. In the '72 Games, USSR won the gold when the officials replayed the final three seconds twice which enabled Russia to win by a point. In '88 the last collegiate American basketball team was beaten fair and square by the Russians, and it was then that the Americans decided to bring in their ballistic missiles: the NBA superstars who were the best in the business.

Also assisting them was the redraft in the Olympic charter which obliterated the distinction between amateur and professional. The rules were rewritten to read, "Each nation may select its finest athletes." The Dream Team was born. It also gave birth to some of the most lopsided competitions ever seen at the Olympics. The Dream Team in their first ever encounter at the '92 Olympics defeated Angola 116-48, and at one particular point in the match the Americans led 46-1. The eventual bronze medallist at the Barcelona Games, Lithunia were beaten 127-76 by the marauding Americans. In fact, no team came within 32 points of the Americans when the final buzzer sounded at Barcelona. After every challenge was vapourised by the Dreamers the idea of a Dream Team should have been halted. The Americans had indeed proved to the world that their best basketballers were leagues ahead of the other 'best' basketball players in the world.

The Americans persisted with the

concept and the result was that in Atlanta the spectators were bored stiff with the totally one-sided competition they got to see. Talk was not about whether America would win the gold, people were contemplating why His Royal 'Airness' Michael Jordan did not participate in the Games even after he renewed his Chicago Bulls contract and earned a reported \$ 20 million plus salary. People were talking about Shaq O' Neil's \$ 120 million deal with the LA Lakers making him the fifth highest earning sportsman in the world with estimated earnings of \$ 22.5 million a year. Spectators were discussing about Hakeem Olajuwon, a humble champion who pledges allegiance to his God and his country. But no one was talking about the American basketball team per se.

But then basketball is a team sport and the Olympics are an arena when national honour and pride take priority over individual champions. Correction, the Dream Team has changed the very notion that the Games stood for. The individuals who are nothing but walking, talking billboards have transcended all idealism and patriotism that existed in the Games. In '92 when Jordan draped the Stars and Stripes around himself on the victory podium at Barcelona, it was not to show his love for America. It was to avoid a clash with his personal sponsor who happened to be the main rival of the sponsor of the American team. Personalities and personal ambitions were taking centrestage where nationalism once prevailed.

It is time the U.S Olympic Committee realised this. It is time that the hype that is given by America to its millionaire basketballers be toned down. It is time to get the spectators more involved in the basketball fixture at the Olympics. It is time to bring back some 'real' competition into this discipline which till the Atlanta Olympics was a hot favourite amongst the masses. It is time that every competitor vying for glory in Olympic basketball be given a chance: a chance to dream of an Olympic gold medal.

PHENOM

Russia's ALEXANDER

POPOV faced little

competition in the pool



LEXANDER POPOV served evidence of his wonderful talent at the Barcelona Olympics, four years ago. There was an initial debate questioning the Russian's capabilities in the shorter sprints in swimming at Barcelona. This debate, futile as it was in the final analysis, was fuelled by the fact that two accomplished Americaris, namely Matt Biondi and his counterpart Tom Jager had very impressive credentials in the 100 and 50m freestyle.

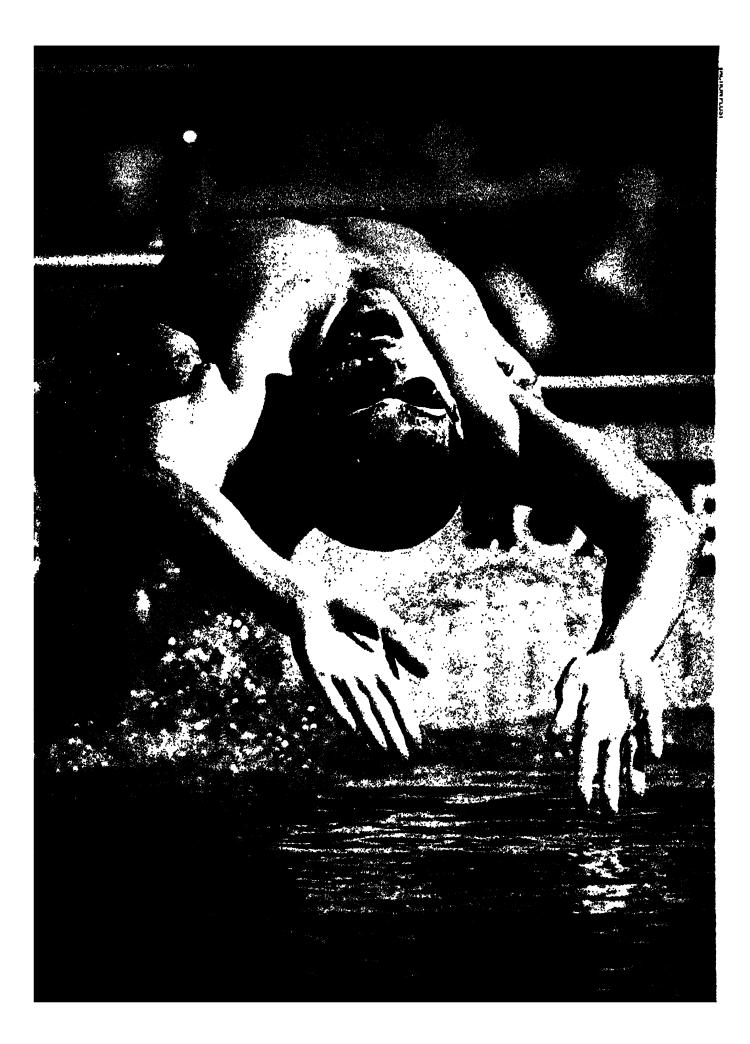
Swimming folklore, if they do have that sort of thing, tells us that Biondi trained with dolphins in his warm up to Barcelona and irrespective of his rigorous training schedule, Tom Jager kept breathing down his neck. In fact, the names on the winners' podium constantly saw Biondi and Jager trading places for first and second place.

And then along comes this guy who's in some sort of a rush...and that's not surprising considering that Popov is a Russian. The towering swimmer (6 feet, seven inches) with clean cut looks sent tremors of shock through the US swim team when he beat both Biondi and Jager in the 100m and 50m freestyle. These two events are considered to be the showpiece events in swimming and by virtue of his feat, Popov was tagged with the title of 'world's fastest swimmer'.

That was four years ago, in Barcelona. And the world of

Popov: the supreme stylist who operates on turbo







swimming is a sport in which world records are meant to fall like nine pins. Using that as a yardstick, Alexander Popov has been doing quite well, thank you. He has held on to the title of being the world's fastest swimmer while at the same time escorting Biondi and Jager into retirement. Popov is currently based in Australia and he adhers to the most strenuous of swimming schedules during training sessions there. His talent and speed in the water are therefore evidence of his hard work. The fact that in 1994, Popov broke an unprecedented number of records in the World Cup circuit serve as apt illustrations of this statement. Popov set six world short course records in the five meetings that he contested in the seven venue World Cup series.

Alexander Popov is not a swimmer who's swimplan is based on raw aggression. Rather, he is the supreme stylist and this quality alone is very hard to find amongst world ranked swimmers who specialise over the shorter distances. While his opponents prefer to kick up a minor whirlpool in the water with the combined use of their arms and legs, Popov gives the impression that he is gliding through it with the minimum of fuss. The net result is devastating. For a guy who gives the impression that he is simply 'flowing' in the pool, Popov possesses devastating power. It is probably because of his fluid style of swimming that Popov has progressively carved more than a second from the 100m freestyle record which he bettered at four consecutive meetings. The 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke world marks had also fallen to the 24-year-old from Volvograd.

In Atlanta, Popov was line for another bout with greatness. He was on the verge of becoming the first man since Johnny 'Tarzan' Weissmuller to successfully defend his 100m freestyle title at two successive Olympics. In

Popov's counterparts love to hate him blaming him for trying to psyche them out before a race



In Atlanta, Popov became the first man after Johnny Weissmuller to defend the 100m freestyle record

this event, Popov had only one major problem and he came in the form of American Gary Hall Jr. It turned out to be the closest race in Popov's entire career, so much so that even when he

be the closest race in Popov's entire career, so much so that even when he touched the wall at the finish with his left hand, he was not sure whether he had finished first.

He had. But only just. When Popov looked up to the scoreboard he. realised that he had won in 48.74 seconds. It was a win that propelled him straight into the record books. It was also a victory that saw seven-hundredths of a second separating the victor from the vanquished. Till the timings were flashed, it was impossible to tell who was ahead and like Popov, the rest of the 14,000 spectators at the Georgia Aquatic Centre had to wait for the scorecard. And all this inspite of the fact that in the heats, Popov had recorded a 48.74 seconds, the fourth fastest time in history. It was also his winning time.

Rumour has it that Popov it not very well liked in the international swimming circles. This is justified by the fact that both Hall and Popov have built up a very strong rivalry with each other. Popov, who is an introvert, feels that "Hall talks too much", while Hall has stated that Popov is "immature". Hall's summation of Popov's character is based on the fact that his opponent loves to play mind games with his opponents such as staring them down before a race. "He calls himself a master at head games," Hall said of Popov adding, "hey, give it your best shot."

Popov did. Which is why he won and Hall lost. Talk is cheap, they say and in this case, Popov's silence—coupled with his alleged mind games—took him right into the record books.

Indranil Basak



VANDER HOLYFIELD was puzzled.
It was Wednesday, a couple of days before the Olympic Games were to start. But still, there was no call from the Organising Committee. Holyfield had been invited to light the flame at the Games, a signal honour for a distinguished boxer. And why not? He was the most famous sportsman in Atlanta, a two-time former world heavyweight champion. No one deserved the honour more.

Holyfield waited by the phone the whole of Wednesday. There was no phone call. His children asked him what the problem was. "They said, 'We thought you were carrying the torch, Daddy." Holyfield replied, "Well

kids, I thought so too."

On Thursday, the call finally came. It was just one day before the opening ceremony. The officials confirmed that he would be carrying the torch. But they did not mention which leg of the rally he would be participating in. Holyfield felt miffed. He was sure that he would be the one who would light the cauldron, signifying the opening of the Games. But the officials acted coy. They did not commit themselves.

Holytield was puzzled.

Come the day of the opening ceremony and Holyfield explained, "About 10 minutes before I carried it into the stadium, they said Ali was lighting it. All of a sudden, I felt real

TRADING PLACES

EVANDER HOLYFIELD thought that he would be lighting the Olympic flame. But the Games officials sprang a surprise on him

good, full of joy. I can't tell you how uplifting it was."

"If there was anyone who deserved it, it was him. I got chills when I heard about it." He also felt tearful like the rest of the spectators who were watching the opening ceremony. Here was one of the greatest boxers of all time, Mohammad Ali, he of the nimble feet and lightning quick reflexes, found it an enormous strain to just hold the torch in his violently shaking hands. It wasn't emotion. Ali never buckled under emotions. This man, who dominated and enthralled the world for two decades, could barely hold something as light as a torch, due to the terribly debilitating effects of Parkinson's

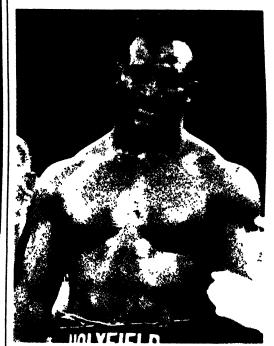
Muhammad Ali was the surprise package at the Atlanta Games opening ceremony Disease.

"It is a sight that I will never forget for the rest of my life," Holyfield said, shaking his head sadly, "he showed extraordinary courage and determination. Ali was the greatest and, in my eyes, he will always remain the greatest."

In Atlanta, Holyfield was one of the most popular figures. He could not go anywhere without being mobbed, without people handing him their visors, shirts and pieces of paper to autograph. Holyfield had a ball at the Olympic Games. But things were not so rosy when he took part in his only Olympic Games, at LA in '84.

Holyfield then had been disqualified by an official for striking Kevin Berry of New Zealand, a millisecond after the ring referee said, "Stop." Berry was knocked out cold. He could not compete in the final. The result: Anton Josipovic won the gold medal, Berry the silver, while Holyfield had to be content with the bronze.

"That bad experience really doesn't erase how I feel about these Olympics and the

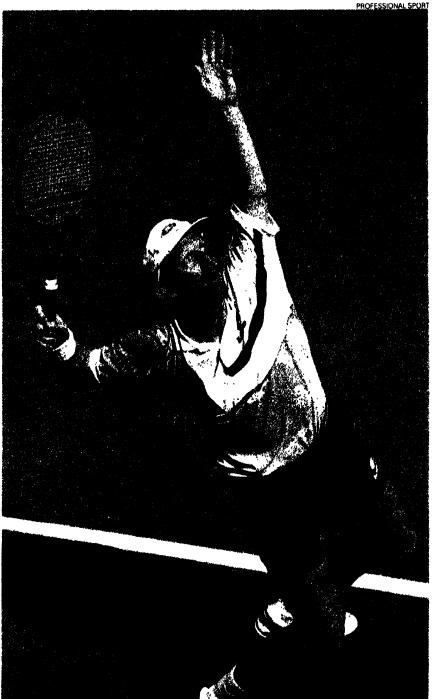


Evander Holyfield was replaced at the last moment to light the Olympic torch

whole Olympic experience," Holyfield explained, "it was a bad decision. That was all. But it takes nothing away from this. Being a part of the opening ceremony made me feel good about the world, about how people come together and communicate for the common good."

P V.Isaac

Professional tennis players may be great sportsmen, but they are not Olympians. There is a difference



BY INDRANIL BASAK

RE professional tennis players a bunch of egoistic, self-centred louts, who have no ambition in the world but to make millions of dollars and play around with the rankings?

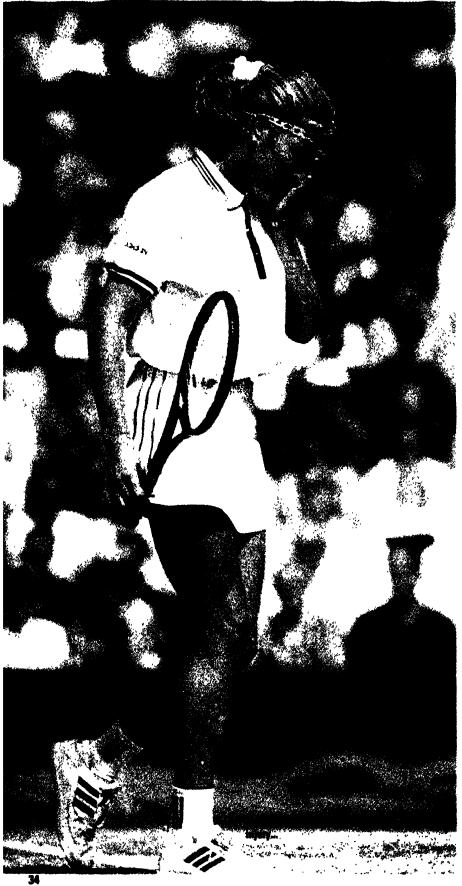
Wait a minute. Are we being a little too harsh on these guys? Maybe, maybe not. If we stop to study the number of withdrawals made by the tennis pros who were vying for the gold medal in Atlanta, we might just come to the conclusion that these men and women just cannot see beyond themselves. This does not mean that the show won't go on minus them. But, then again, in the final analysis, the loss might just be theirs. The pros, on the other hand, don't think so. They feel justified by giving the gold a miss. After all, there are packets of dollars to be made in the ATP tournaments.

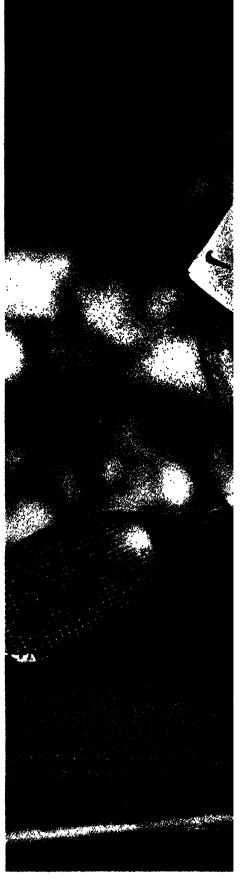
Money can't buy you gold medals. But players like Pete Sampras, Boris Becker, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Richard Krajicek (three of whom have won majors this year) have cried off nevertheless. Their logic: you want me to show my patriotism, I do it anyway...in the Davis Cup. And what's more, they even get paid for it. And besides, with the U.S. Open around the corner, none of them are going to risk a possible injury. The Olympics? Get out of town!

Tennis in the Olympics once again presents a sad story of non-representation by those stars

Boris Becker decided that the Olympics did not fit into his schedule









who could have turned out to be major crowd pullers. And this is not an unfamiliar situation. For a game that had been restored to the Olympic time-table in 1988, after a gap of 64 years, thanks to the total commercialisation of the sport, the draw continued to have a disjointed look.

Not so with the ladies. There were only two notable absentees in that section. Both were the results of injuries which is why Steffi Graf and Chanda Rubin chose to stay away.

that two other superstars, namely, Monica Seles (who has finally got her US citizenship) and Andre Agassi (whose father was on the Iranian boxing team in 1948 and 52) are doing duty for their country. The US's Todd Martin could also have been representing his country but for the fact that there were some bureaucratic mess-ups on the part of the ITF.

Martin, by all accounts, is the ideal *Olympian* and also a potential gold medallist. Thanks to his absence, the

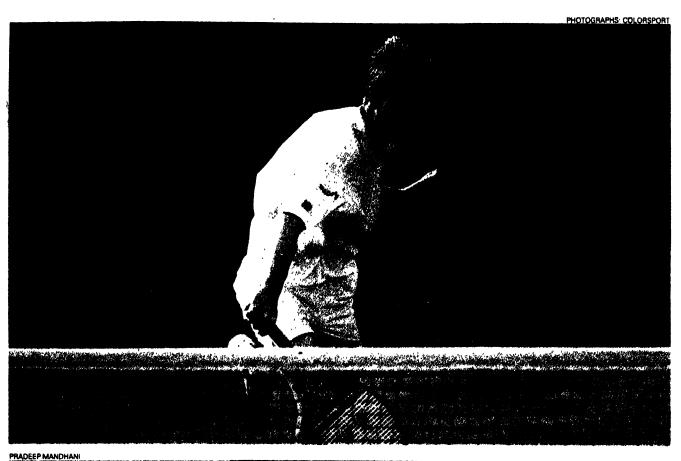


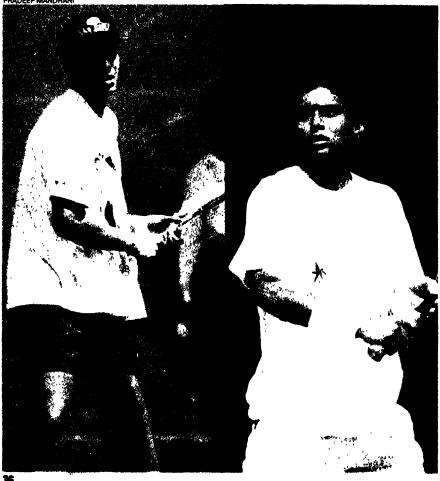
One could make an issue of these withdrawals but the fact remains that when someone like Graf (gold in Seoul and silver in Barcelona) tells you'she's hurt, you might want to believe her. And as for Rubin, her fracture of the right hand kept her away from the French and Wimbledon Championships, so not turning up at Atlanta turns out to be a non-issue.

If the draws have been stained by the withdrawals of top stars, it has, on the flip side, found hope in the fact

Andre Agassi: surprise, surprise!

US team comprised of Andre Agassi, MaliVai Washington and Richey Reneberg. But then most of the maneouvrings within the ITF, and in the world of pro tennis, cannot be explained which is why when Steffi Graf dropped out of the draw, she was replaced by Briton, Clare Wood (No. 185 on the computer) instead of another German.





MaliVai Washington still can't figure out how he's representing the USA

How does one ignore all this? One doesn't. Moreover, one should not even try. Still, you can't help asking: how did Andre Agassi, of all people, make it to the Games? Given a raw deal by his opponents, in three of the Grand Slams this year, Agassi has, of late, been lethargic and moody. Is an Olympic gold his way of salvaging the year, with a possible good showing at the US Open?

Agassi cannot believe that his colleagues have gone AWOL at the Games. As he says, "To me, it's a no-brainer. We have four great experiences every year, but an Olympic gold medal, this experience—that's been my goal for this year." So how come Agassi, inspite of mouthing all these patriotic dialogues, was absent for the Games in

Mahesh Bhupathi would learn from the Olympic experience

Leander Paes was not there as a hard nosed pro. He was there as a patriot

Yevgeny Kafelnikov: money takes precedence over the Olympic medal

1988 and 1992?

So even if the pros do take part in the Games, does that mean that they want to be part of the Olympic experience? To be part of this means bunking in a dorm with fellow competitors, eating in the same packed dining room with 10,000 other athletes of different colours and races, putting aside their bank balances, their agents and their egos, to think normally. No such luck. And please don't believe Monica Seles when she tells you that she's trying to copy Muhammad Ali's fancy footwork or gushes that "Life is all about experiences; everything else, you know, it's a routine." Emotional quotes go a long way in helping the hoi polloi form a positive opinion. So as far as the crowds are concerned, Seles is having a ball. At least, she is staying in the Games Village while Agassi rented a plush suburban home—with its own private tennis

Michael Stich is honest enough to spell out the truth, materialistic as it may sound. "We have the lour big events every year," Stich said, "to us, it is much more important than the Olympics. So it's not a once-in-a-lifetime thing like for so many of these athletes who train for just this time. I won my gold medal (doubles with Becker) in Barcelona, so I can't do much more than that."

Reigning Olympic champ, Mark Rosset of Switzerland agreed with Stich in principle but added that, "They'll kill me back at home if I don't play. They'd never let me back into Switzerland." And so Rosset had to do the honours on the opening day by playing against Moroccan Hicham Arazi (No. 81) in the new 12,000 seat stadium.

Finally, a passing thought for all those who did not turn up at Atlanta: will they ever stop to think what it was to miss out an Olympic Games? Or, for that matter, what it must be to feel like an unpaid patriot? To be sure, these



pros are the losers.

Oh, and what about the winners? Well, they are the Randriantify sisters (from Madagascar), the N'Goran brothers from the Ivory Coast, Selima Sfar from Tunisia. Tamarine Tanasugarn from Thailand, Oleg Ogodorov from Uzbekistan, Sargis Sargisian from Armenia, Sule Nadipo from Nigeria, Romana Tedjakusuma

from Indonesia, Christina
Zachariadou from Greece and finally
our very own Leander Paes and
Mahesh Bhupathi from India. These
guys are not competing for the
millions of dollars...there aren't any.
They are just competing for a gold
medal...

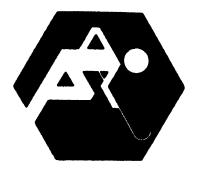
...And for the honour of being called Olympians.

CARTOON CORNER

ARTHUR CARDOZO casts a bemused eye at the goings-on at the recently concluded Atlanta Olympics







PICTURE OF UNITY



PICTURE OF TEAM WORK

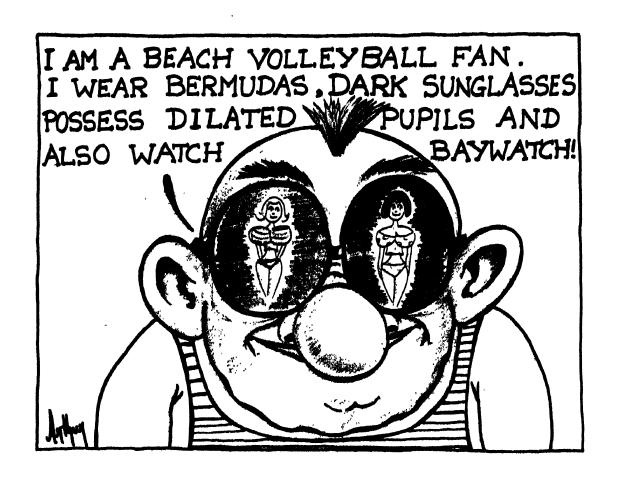
The important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part; just as the important thing in life is not to be a victim of circumstances, but to insure oneself against uncertainties.



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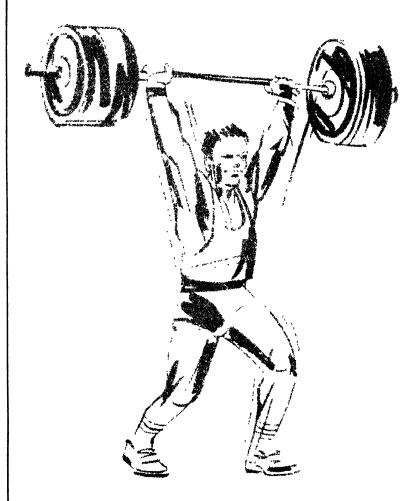




PICTURE OF POWER



PICTURE OF LEADERSHIP



The important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part; just as the important thing in life is not to be a victim of circumstances, but to insure oneself against uncertainties.



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ATLANTA

DIARY

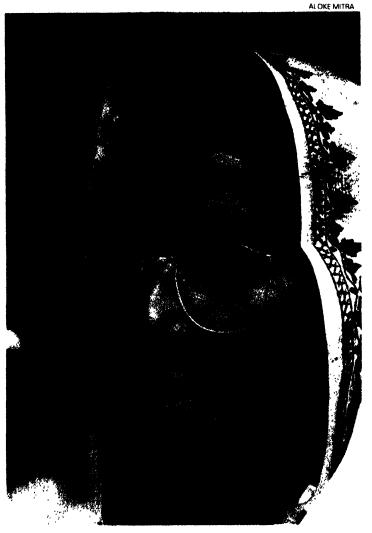
Snippets from the Centennial Olympic Games

OF GLITCHES AND HITCHES

THE United States of America took the credit of having the most sophisticated databased computerisation and the best intelligence network in the world. And yet the affluent nation is fallible.

They even boast of the tremendous success in staging the Los Angeles Olympics and the '94 US World Cup soccer. But can the Atlanta Games organisers take the credit of holding a successful extravaganza? The chances seem slim. Because they have been sharply rebuked for their chaotic technological and transport glitches. A few veteran visitors at the

Sheikh Hazina was mistakenly indentified as the Prezident instead of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in the official brochure at Atlanta



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Centennial jamboree did not even hesitate to point out that the Moscow Games was much better organised.

Here is an example of the glitch. Take the case of Bangladesh.

They made Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister, the President of Bangladesh. More ridiculously, the opposition leader Begum Khalida Zia was shown as being the current Premier. To rub salt in the wound, a few more lines profiled Bangladesh as the former erstwhile East Bengal, instead of it being East Pakistan. Naturally, the Bangladeshis were very annoyed. It is hoped that the future hosts of the Olympics will be more cautious. There can be nothing worse than distorting the profile of a country, no matter how small it is.

A THRILLED MANDELA

Flate, the South African Government had come in for severe criticism over foreign junkets undertaken by cabinet ministers. At least, the opposition has not taken it lightly. Yet, when it came to the Centennial Games, nearly seventeen ministers wasted no time to make a sojourn to Atlanta to witness the performances of their athletes.

However, to saveguard their reputation back home, the excuses made was that they were 'only passing through' enroute to economic parleys in Europe and elsewhere. But the truth was that, according to sources, the presence of these ministers was



President Nelson Mandela was thrilled that South Africa won its first Olympic gold medal

vitally important for the 'sale' of South Africa as a viable venue for the 2004 Olympic Games.

Meanwhile, South Africa won its first Olympic gold medal from the pool in 44 years with the triumph of Penny Heyns in the women's 100m breaststroke. The most cuphoric person in the whole of South Africa was none other than President Nelson Mandela. He watched Miss Heyns' brilliant achievement on television. And rightaway, he released to the media a congratulatory message to the swimmer: "I watched in great pride your feat..."

GRAND KAROLYII

OW the gymnastics fraternity just can't afford to ignore the name of Bela Karolyi. He guided the sensational Nadia Comaneci to that sterling performance of a perfect 10 and winner of three golds at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games when he was the Komanian national coach.

Karolyi's career came a full circle when a capacity crowd at the Georgia Dome roared the United States to a win. The Yanks defeated the Russians and world champions Romania, and emerged the winners in the women's

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team championships.

Bela Karolyi, who defected to the USA in 1980, has created more Olympians and world champions than anyone else in this discipline. However, there are some who just find it difficult to swallow Karolyi's success story and have criticised him mercilessly. Professional jealousy could be one of the reasons. The coach, with studied indifference, continues to tweak his handlebar moustache at the world.

EGO TRIP

world class sprinter who is yet to win a major title in the 100m dash thus far has had the temerity of criticising big names like Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson. His name: Jon Drummond, who seems to be on an ego trip of hiw own.

For example: When Carl Lewis showed his willingness to anchor the short relay, Drummond sarcastically said that Lewis' time had come and gone and that the US has a new group of sprinters.

Then Drummond took on Michael Johnson. He said, "The winner of the Atlanta 100m is considered the fastest man on earth. So if Johnson wants the title, he will have to participate in the 100m race."

The arrogant Drummond has the habit of taking a dig at others. It would be better if he paid more attention to winning a major race.

Jon Drummond does more talking than running



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THE Barcelona Olympics 10,000 metres gold medal winner, Khalid Skah of Morocco had to muster all the courage and inner strength to be present at Atlanta to enable him to do an encore in his pet event. The reason was because his father was suffering from pancreatic cancer and was dying. He wanted to dedicate the victory to his father, who has very little time to live.

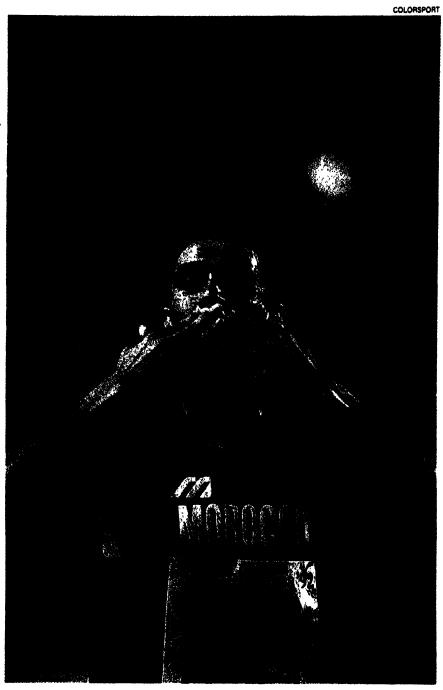
As a befitting adieu to his lovable father Khalid wanted to give him the Olympic gold medal. In a choked voice he said: "It's a dangerous illness and he's going to die." Lord help Khalid's father.

SMOKIN' JOE COMES VISITIN'

NE notable boxer spared no time in visiting the boxing competition at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum since it is being held so close to his residence.

He is none other than the 1964 Olympic boxing gold medallist and former world heavyweight champion 'Smokin' Joe Frazier who, along with his boxing pro son Marvis, were introduced to the huge crowd. The crowd responded warmly. It was a great feeling for 'Smokin' Joe!

Despite his father dying of cencer, Khelid Skeh of Morocco still came to Atlanta to participate



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Frazier told the gathering: "The money in the game is definitely better than when we fought. The Olympics are a great opportunity for all athletes involved."

That was a perfect summation of sport today.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

EANWHILE, our star performers, when it came to proving their might at the international level, shamefully ended up as the also-rans. At Atlanta, the story was no different.

Here's a funny story: a certain Greco Roman wrestler, Kaka Pawar, had earlier cried himself hoarse that since he was a former Asian champion and the best in the country in his weight (48kgs) category, he was an automatic choice for Atlanta. But in the Trials before the Games, Pappu Yadav defeated Pawar and staked his claim. Ultimately, the former managed to end up at Atlanta.

However, in the competition, he was found to be overweight. As a result, he had to move up to the next category, (52kg). In the ensuing bout against Andrey Kalashnikov of Russia, he cut a very sorry figure—and became an embarrassment for the country. In fact, India's medal hope in the Greco Roman event died with Yadav's exit. Like a typical Indian sportsman, he ended at the bottom.

Pappu Yadav: he became overweight at Atlanta and was forced to move to the next category

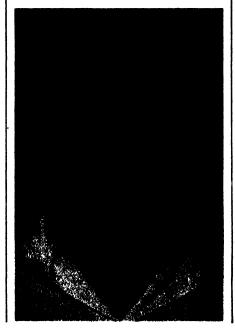
THE CONTRAST

HAT is common between India's Pargat Singh and Pakistan's Shahbaz Ahmed?

Answer: Both the hockey stalwarts had differences with their respective national federations and were later re-instated in the team

Initially, the Pakistani player was excluded from the Atlanta squad but after having a peace parley with the hockey bosses, he was flown to the Games to strengthen the Pakistani team. Shahbaz's teammates were extremely happy; some of his players felt that his presence gave them a lot of inspiration. Maybe. Maybe not.

But the moment Shahbaz appeared at the Games Village unexpectedly, a few hockey officials did not take it





Pargat Singh: humble and sincere

kindly. The most unhappiest man at that moment was none other than the former player and coach Samiullah. Because his players ended up listening to Shahbaz rather than him. Even after being comprehensively drubbed by dark horses Spain, the players sided with Shahbaz. But for how long can this go on?

Now when India lost to Argentina, it came as a great shock to every Indian. So when Pargat Singh was asked about this shoddy debacle, the player said that he had only followed instructions of the coach. He avoided saying anything further. That shows the difference between Shahbaz Ahmed and Pargat Singh. The former, arrogant and domineering, the latter humble and sincere.

Compiled by Indrani Pal

SERVO: ON THE VICTORY LAP. LAP AFTER LAP.



WORLD CLASS LUBRICANTS



Congrats!

GNGRATULATIONS to
Saumev Ganguly for his
wonderful performance in the
recently-concluded English tour.
After being dropped from the
Indian squad earlier, he once
again had managed a berth for
himself. This time, he came out
with flying colours. He certainly
deserves to be lauded for his
brilliant performance. His two
successive tons have definitely
touched the heart of every
Indian.

MANOJ KUMAR OJAH, AMOM.

Olympic Cricket

ITH the XXVII Olympiad to be held at Sydney, Australia, in the year 2000 AD, it will be the first Olympic Games of the 21st. century.

All the cricket competing countries in the world should forward a proposal to the president of the International Olympic Committee and chairman of the Australian Olympic Organising Committee to include cricket as a 'demonstration' sport for the Sydney Olympics.

It may be recalled that cricket was a part of the Olympic Games before and was first played at the 1900 Paris Olympics. England and France were the only teams which participated. The latter lost in the final.

Today, with over a dozen countries playing the game, it could be introduced once again since other sports have also enjoyed the same privilege. After all, cricket is very popular amongst the young and old. It will really be appreciated if the game is 'reintroduced'.

MELSON F. M. LOUIS, Valim, Goa. O, at last, Saurav Ganguly comes of age. His excellent performance backed by the brilliance of Tendulkar, Dravid, Srinath and Prasad were the only high points of India's tour to England.

Saurav's batting was clearly outstanding. He has proved that talent cannot be kept in the dark for too long.

The less said of Azhar the better. He should immediately be asked to 'retire' along with the selection committee who had such great faith in him.

PRABAL GUHA, Patna.



Steffi's Graph

CODAY Steffi Graf holds the world No.1 position in tennis for a walloping 332 weeks—which is equal to approximately 2,324 days.

For her success of 332 weeks, Graf received the 1995 'World Sports Personality'award. Well done, Steffi Graf, you have created history.

My best wishes are always with you!

CHENGBAN PHUKAN, Jorhat.

Indian Cricket-RIP

*** HE Indian cricket team has undergone a traumatic and humiliating experience in

England.

Here is a lament in verse: After the World Cup '96 debacte The Indian team is now a sorry spectacle;

The selection itself was a joke, At which all and sundry took a poke.

Manoj the rebel was packed, Kambli the errant was sacked When Navjot Sidhu walked out There was a mighty shout. Something is rotten with Indian cricket,

With stalwarts being given the ticket,

The skipper with his amorous ways.

Is no longer interested to play.
The team is split asunder
They know not what lies; onder,
Now in the pits of gloom,
Awaiting their ultimate doom.
May Indian Cricket RIP
It is no longer a VIP.

SHANMÜGAM MUDALIAR, Pune.

Irritating

HO is this Mr. Harsha Bhogle?

These days with so many ex-Test cricketers available for commentary on TV, it is kind of hard on us to listen to persons like Mr. Bhogle, Firstly, he talks too much and too fast. At least, once in every sentence, he sounds irritating. I am sure, if Sportsworld conducts an opinion poll, most people would not like to have Mr. Bhogle in the seam of commentators.

SUPRIYO ROYCHOWOHURY,

US OPEN COMPILED BY PAUL FEIN TENNIS INDEX

OHN McENROE's main goal at the 1990 Wimbledon: "Not to get suspended out of the US Open (for exceeding the \$7,500 limit on fines)."

Gilbert said when champion Andre Agassi came off the court after winning the 1994 US Open final: "You're going to win the Australian Open."

took the backhand court when Margaret Smith Court paired with John Newcombe to win the mixed doubles and complete a "triple" at the 1970 US Open: Margaret Smith Court.

TOMBER of jet airplanes that roared over the McEnroe-Woodforde vs.

Leach-Pugh quarterfinal doubles match at the 1989 US Open: 56.

Funning between
Manhattan and the National
Tennis Center that corporate
endorser Nike papered with
posters featuring Andre Agassi
and Pete Sampras before the
1995 U.S.Open: 200.

HAT the USTA mistakenly gave Guillermo Vilas when he won the 1977 US Open: A very light, little ball with "semifinalist" inscribed on it.

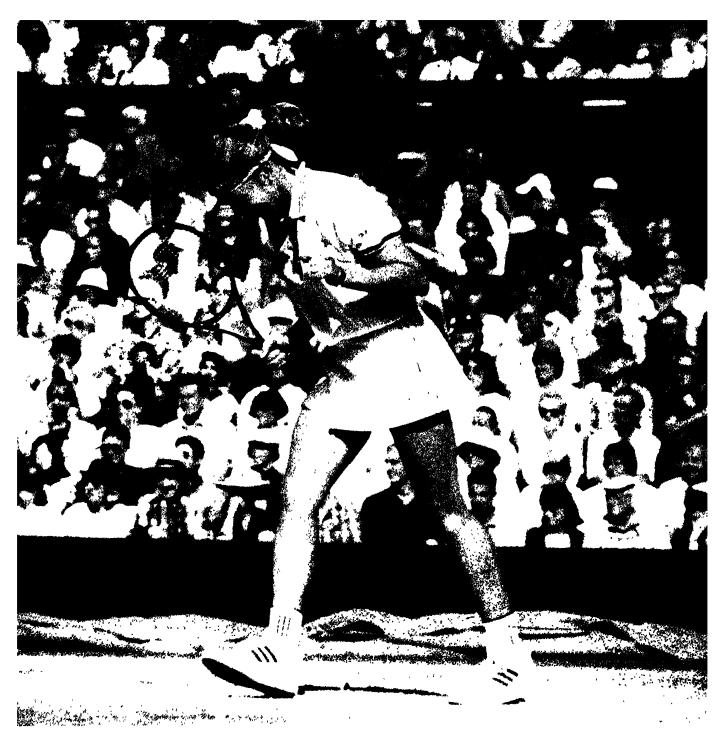






OW Sports Illustrated writer Curry Kirkpatrick described Mats Wilander's 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 US Open final victory over Ivan Lendl in 1988: "A tour de tedium."

champion that former basketball superstar Wilt Chamberlain rates the most competitive athlete he's ever seen: Monica Seles.



ELEBRITY who held a press conference after Andre Agassi beat Michael Stich in the 1994 US Open final: Actress Brooke Shields, Agassi's girlfriend.

(UMBER of times that Stefan) Edberg was called for footfaulting in his 1983 US Open first-round loss to Aaron Krickstein: 26.

facing medical staffers at the 1993 US Open that were headaches: 92.

COW Greg Darish of Connecticut and Faith
Rothstein of Long Island ended their tug-of-war over the sweatshirt that Andre Agassi cossed into the stands after winning the 1994 US Open final: They agreed to tear it in half.

DVICE that double Grand Slammer Rod Laver gave Steffi Graf on the eve of her successful attempt to win the Grand Slam at the 1988 US Open: "Don't be defensive—go on the attack."

RAND Slam tournament that John McEnroe says should be played indoors: "Either the Australian Open or the US Open."



HE nicest players to deal with at the US Open, according to Hemel Meghani Cosme, a teaching pao at the USTA National Tennis Center, who organises nine on site practice courts for 256 tournament players: Steffi Graf and Boris Becker.

HAT one fan—who had difficulty pronouncing the name of obscure qualifier Paul Haarhuis—kept yelling during his shocking 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 US Open upset over John McEnroe in 1989:"Come on Whorehouse!"

UMBER of times that baseliner Mats Wilander rushed net in his 1988 US Open final victory over Ivan Lendl: 131.

UMBER of roses that then heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson sent to Lori McNeil at the 1988 US Open: 1,000.

HAT a frustrated John McEnroe said to chair umpire Steve Ulrich on the changeover during his 1990 US Open semifinal loss to Pete Sampras: "Why of all people do you have to be here?"

HAT 1992 US Open runner-up Sampras said he would be willing to do if the Open changed its schedule and moved the singles semifinals from Saturday to Friday: "Take a huge pay cut."

HAT an anonymous woman sent Arthur Ashe after he won the first US Open title in 1968 and received only \$280 in expense money because he was an amateur: 100 shares of General Motors stock worth \$9,500.

TENNISTALK

EASON Jim Courier calls the US Open "the shark tank".

Because agents work the locker rooms there.

RIZE money ratio for men's and women's singles champions at the 1970 Italian Open: 5.8 to 1.

UMBER of International
Management Group (IMG)
representatives, including
company founder Mark
McCormack, who watched
12-year-old prodigy Jennifer
Capriati win her opening match
at the 1988 US Open junior
event: 9.

HAT unseeded Amy
Frazier did right after
upsetting sixth-seeded Mary
Pierce at the 1995 US Open: She
went to a hospital to donate blood
for a sick child.

HAT eager interviewee
Martina Navratilova told
1989 US Open media that she'd
be more than happy to talk about
if they tired of tennis:"The (New
York) Yankees, the state of the
economy or the right to
abortion."

MOUNT over the original estimates that the new USTA National Tennis Center project in Flushing Meadow, New York, will actually cost: About \$100 million.

HAT a spectator at the 1993 US Open final yelled to encourage little-known Cedric Pioline after he broke champion Pete Sampras' serve in the second set: "Come on What's-his-name!"

HAT 16-year-old Pam Shriver did the day after losing to Chris Evert in the 1978 US Open final: She returned to high school classes.





HAT Pete Sampras
deprecatingly called
himself when he won the 1990
US Open: "Some 19-year-old
punk from California."

**PORTS ILLUSTRATED magazine's cover story headline after Ivan Lendl crushed Miloslav Mecir in the 1986 US Open final: "The Champion That Nobody Cares About."

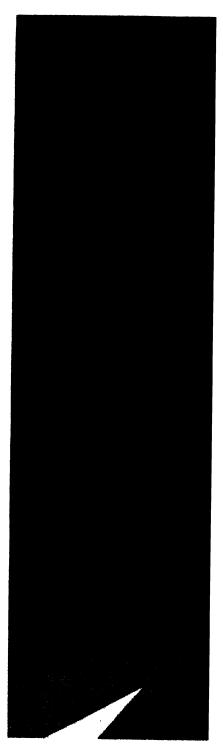


Margaret Smith Court when she won a "triple" (singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles) at the 1970 US Open: \$9,500...And the prize money reaped by Martina Navratilova for her "triple" at the 1987 US Open: \$306,413.

OW Cedric Pioline, the 1993 US Open finalist, describes his coach who spent much of the tournament fortnight back in Paris: "Monsieur Dumont, the ghost."

OW four-time US Open champion Martina
Navratilova once answered a male sportswriter who asked,
"Martina, are you still a lesbian?"
"Are you still the alternative?"

ELEBRITY who had so much fun at the 1993 US Open that he wrote the United States Tennis Association a thank-you note:
Tom Cruise.



OW Russian Yevgeny
Kafelnikov describes playing
the US Open: "lt's like a
nightmare."

HAT 16-year-old Tracy
Austin had for a victory
dinner after she upset Chris Evert





6-4, 6-3 for the 1979 US Open. title: A quarterpounder with cheese, fries and a Coke at McDonald's.

HAT the American tennis establishment in 1950 did to Althea Gibson, the first black to play the US Championships at Forest Hills: They required her to be tested to confirm that she was a woman.

ON TIRIAC's derisive nickname for the US Open's venue at Flushing Meadow, New York: "Flushing Toilets." HAT Boris Becker did in the evening after hobbling to a 1988 US Open upset loss against Darren Cahill because of feet blisters and a tendon injury: He danced at Stringfellow's nightclub with gorgeous girlfriend Karen Schultz.

BY AMITAVA DASGUPTA

🖖 cene One: Jaipur, February 1996. Davis Cup World Group tie between India and The Netherlands, Dutch No. 1 Richard Krajicek, ranked No.11 in the world, is not picked for a single match as the tie is on grass and the team has better players for that surface. Krajicek sits on the sidelines and watches 'superior' grasscourters lose 2-3 to Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander

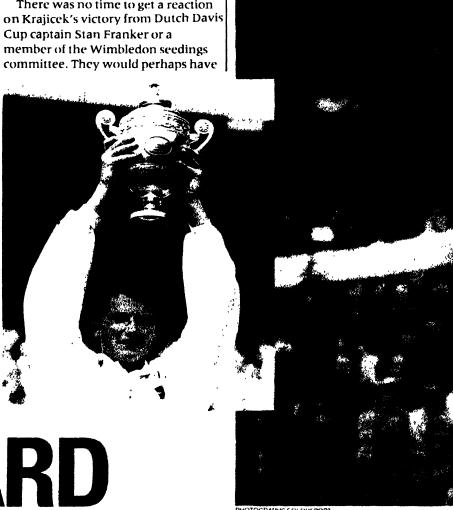
Scene Two: Wimbledon fortnight, 1996. No one can stop Krajicek from playing the biggest tennis championships but he can certainly be denied a place in the 16-man seeds' list despite being ranked No.13 in the world. The reason: a much lower ranked player has to be seeded to honour his immensely better grasscourt expertise. At 6.17 pm on July 7, Krajicek completes a three-set rout of MaliVai Washington to win the Wimbledon men's singles title, having lost just one set in seven matches.

Sport has seen countless dramatic twists over the years. But tennis has rarely witnessed a twist more dramatic than Krajicek's coup at the All England Club last month. Till he beat 1991 champion Michael Stich in the round of 16, Krajicek's '96 Wimbledon campaign was dominated by girlfriend Daphne Deckers—the slim, blue-eyed beauty who stood out

in a crowd of celebrities as she sat on the players' box cheering for her man. It took a consistent spell of breathtaking tennis for Krajicek to get the focus shifted from his fiancee. Getting Stich out of the way, Krajicek caused the biggest flutter in a year of big upsets by reducing three-time champ Pete Sampras to a mere mortal. Once that apparently insurmountable hurdle had been crossed, there could be no stopping the baby-faced Dutchman.

There was no time to get a reaction

been too embarrassed to even talk of their Krajicek-related (mis) deeds. But, to be fair to both parties, neither could actually be blamed for a lack of foresight. A tennis player is only as good as his results. If you don't have the performances to back you, how can the judges be faulted for ignoring you? And just look at what Krajicek had done on grass before his monumental feat last month: just one



RICHARD PHOTOGRAPHS COLORSPORT THE LIONHEAR

Wimbledon champion, Richard Krajicek is ready to steamroll the opposition at the U.S. Open

career title on grass (Rosmalen, 1994) in seven years on the circuit and nothing better than a fourth-round effort in five visits to Wimbledon. The last two years, in fact, had seen the Dutchman tumbling out in Round One. How on earth could a sensible, person visualise a guy with that kind of a record to come good at Wimbledon this year?

Ever since he humbled Michael

the three fastest of this generation. And owning that weapon is more than half the battle won. Yet, Krajicek had little to show for in terms of achievement. Two semi-final appearances in 21 Grand Slam entries was certainly not the statistic one expects in the CV of a player as talented as Krajicek.

The tennis world waited for the Dutchman to deliver at the big stage,

Chang and Stich en route to the semis of the Australian Open in '92, Krajicek has been a marked man. Armed with a hugely athletic six-foot-five-inch frame, the son of Czech immigrants had the game to hurt the best. Like most well-built guys on the circuit, he possesses a nuclear-powered serve which has been measured as one of

Krejicek has finally arrived. After years of languishing, he courted glory at Wimbledon (inset) with the trophy

identifying him as the dark horse Grand Slam after Grand Slam. Strangely, that big breakthrough remained elusive. Just when his backers had got tired and written him off, the Dutchman stunned everyone with his maiden Grand Slam crown at the ripe age of 24 years and 7 months. And he has done it with such conviction and authority, that they are already talking of Krajicek being a hot contender for the two other Grand Slams on last surfaces—the US and Australian.

Krajicek feels the secret of his transformation is the improvement in his groundstrokes. "My serve is not my only weapon now, I have a good return also, "he remarked after the three-set win over Sampras, Well, Krajicek was being modest there. Such was the quality of his returning that his flawless big-serving almost got overshadowed. Rarely has Sampras' serve been treated with such disdain as Krajicek did at Wimbledon this year. If Krajicek can maintain that high level of returning, not only will he be a serious challenger for the US Open title, he will also push Andre Agassi as the unrivalled No.1 in that department of the game.

His tennis apart, what impressed regular Krajicek watchers was his ability to concentrate without getting tense at moments which mattered most. One of the serious maladies which afflicted Krajicek all along was big-stage fright. Prone to getting injured at the most inopportune of moments, many believed that the talented Dutchman willed himself to such situations. The most famous of a series of ill-timed injuries was an overnight shoulder problem which resulted in Krajicek's conceding the '92 Australian Open semi-final to Jim Courier.

Perhaps, Krajicek isn't a cry baby as Andre Agassi and others make him out to be. Perhaps, Krajicek has indeed suffered genuine injuries at crucial junctures in his career. But the fact remains that the Dutchman was a player who did not believe in his abilities. That's precisely why the latent talent took seven years in surfacing.

It was one thing to win Wimbledon without the hint of any pressure. Now that he has finally delivered, the onus would be on him to live up to the expectations. The real test has just begun. Are you ready, King Richard?

BY K O.JACOB

promised much. But it delivered little. This was supposed to be the year which was to provide some of the most passionate displays of one of the most talked about F1 rivalries in recent times. Yes, we are talking of Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher. Both the drivers had a point or two to prove.

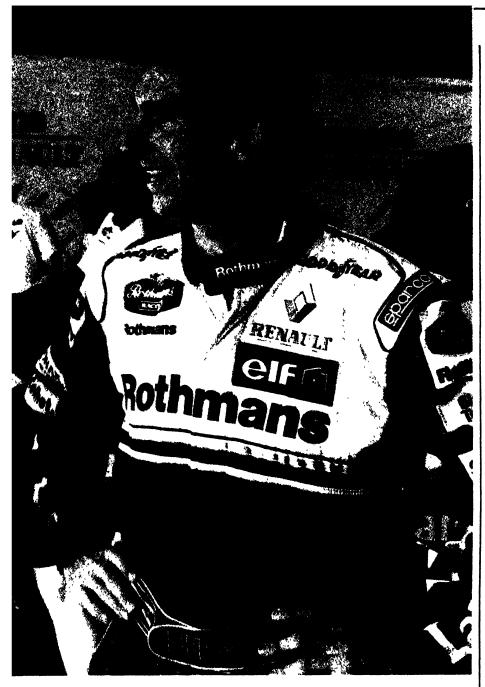
Hill, after a disappointing '95 season, had to prove his worth to the Rothmans Williams team. He also had to assert the fact that he was indeed capable of winning a Championship title. After all, Hill had to live up to the legacy of his late father who had won two Championship titles. Schumacher, the defending champion, had a little more complicated job on his hands. He did not have to prove that he was the best driver in the business. He had already done that in the last two years. Schumacher would have to justify to the world that he was worth the highest salary ever paid in Formula One racing history. On him was also thrust the responsibility of getting Ferrari back to the pinnacle where it once belonged....Schumacher would have to salvage Tifosi's lost pride.

While Damon Hill has more or less completed his assignment for Frank Williams, Schumacher was nowhere near his usual impressive self. It was not because the ambition in him had died, it was not because his driving



MISSION With the Championship now seemingly with his reach, Damon Hill took time off to explain the intricacies of F1 to tennis ace Pete Sample of the intricacies of F1 to tennis ace Pete Sample of F1 to tennis ace Peter Sample of F1 to t

With just five races left and a lead of 21 points, DAMON HILL seems set to win the Drivers' Championship. For his rivals, to prevent it, seems a uphill task



skills had deteriorated, it was simply because his car was not standing up to the gruelling drives Schumacher was putting it through.

Chronic unreliability rather than speed seemed to be the problem afflicting the Ferrari team this season. Just when you thought everything was going line, some mechanical problem or the other forced the Ferrari drivers to retire to their pits. Till the German GP, Schumacher did not finish in six of the 11 races and, at the end of the German GP, he had a measly 26 points to his credit,

compared to Damon Hill's 73.

The talk now is not whether Damon Hill or team Rothmans Williams Renault will win the Drivers and the Constructors Championships. That has almost been taken for granted: after the German GP, Hill leads Villeneuve by 21 points, and team Rothmans Williams Renault heads the Constructors classification with 125 compared to 47 points garnered by the second placed Benetton Renault. The talk now is about how Villeneuve has improved as a F1 driver and about how he, and not

Schumacher, is the only driver who could give Hill a close run.

It was not just the drivers and the concerned mechanics who were toiling it out; the Formula One's gossip mills were running in overdrive too. There was talk about Damon Hill's alleged demand to double his salary. There was a lot written about this, but no one had any fact to substantiate the allegation. When asked about the matter, Hill's paymaster Frank Williams said, "I got a lot of press clippings on my desk all saying the same thing. I thought, 'Damon is sending me a message.' But the clippings fell off the desk into the rubbish bin, as they always do."

The fact remains that the Championship title will not necessarily get Damon Hill a substantial pay hike. Worse still, it does not even guarantee Hill his place as Williams' No.1 driver. Frank Williams let both Mansell and Prost depart immediately after they had won the Championships.

Rumours also abound that Williams has already signed the highly rated German Heinz-Harald Frentzen, currently with Sauber Ford, to drive as a partner for Villeneuve in the coming season. Though Frentzen is yet to win a Grand Prix, he is rated as one of the most talented drivers who never really got a good break. So far, Damon Hill has not reacted to any of the allegations. He is determined not to let the Championship chances slip away from him this year like it did in the past.

Damon Hill has realised that 1996 is going to be his year of reckoning and he is totally focussed on not blowing away his chances. After the job is over, Hill knows that his bargaining capacity and market value will soar and once again he will be in the driver's seat. Till then, he is concentrating only on taking on any driver who poses a remote threat to his Championship bid But with only five more GP's to go this season, it is a certainty that everyone has taken for granted. Unless.....something unforeseen happens.

APPY days are here again for Mushtaq Ahmed. In fact, it seems that the cherubic-faced but devilish Pakistani leggie has just picked up from where he had left off at Lancaster Park, Christchurch, New Zealand, December last year where his 10 wicket spell — 3 and 7 in the two innings served the similar, cause as did his haul at Lord's, in the first Test against England.

Having bowled virtually throughout the morning of the final day with no reward for many moral victories and innumerable frenzied appeals, most of which were not ludicrous, Mushtaq swept through England as soon as he changed his angle of attack and bowled around the wicket into the rough near the leg-stump. From none for 35 in his 25th over, once he snared Atherton, the rest of the order went tumbling down and his remaining 14 overs brought him 5 for 22. In 1992, during the much controversial Pakistan tour of England, Mushtag bowled three overs at Lord's and got Lamb, Hick and Robin Smith. Next man, Ian Botham was dropped by wicket keeper Moin Khan of his bowling. That was the last ball before lunch. After the break Mushtag never got an over because Wasim and Wagar shared the wickets between them and Pakistan won the game.

A couple of years back, Brian Lara had expressed that Mushtaq presented a greater challenge than Warne because he possessed more variation. In fact, he's a bowler fond of experimenting. Explains the leggie, "Cricket is a mind game too. One just can't relax. One's got to bowl economically and at the same time try out variations. I must take wickets and provide breakthroughs. If the batsman is in form, I bowl restrictive and if, he is not, I attack. Being hit doesn't really bother me. If I bowl a long hop or a full toss I deserve to be hit."

That certainly points to his aggressiveness. Mushtaq is the

Don't be fooled by the genial look. Mushtaq Ahmed is a tough nut to crack FR

SPINNING FINGERS

Pakistani leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed is taking the Englishmen for a spin

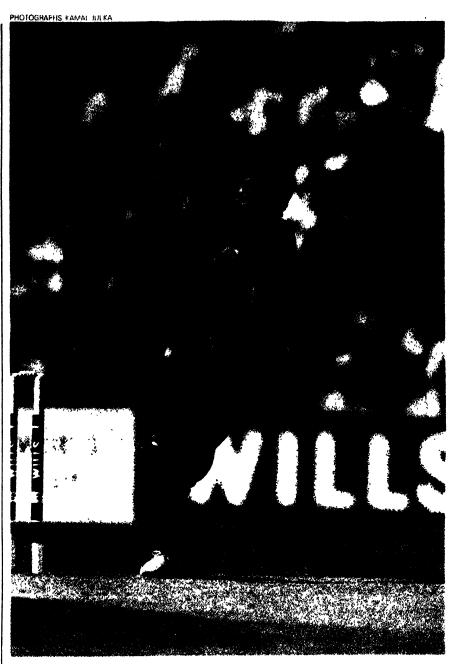


attacking leg spinner who bowls often with a slip and a silly point. Leg spin is probably 'the finest' bowling art in this game. And Mushtaq's fascination for this unique craft developed watching his idol Abdul Qadir. So much so that he modelled himself on Qadir, leaving behind the passion for hockey. Till recently Mushtaq had even emulated Qadir's run-up to the crease. But during Pakistan's tour of Australia last winter, Mushtaq noticed how straight Shane Warne ran to the crease, while he himself had to come in at a sharp angle.

By following Warne's lead, Mushtaq found greater comfort bowling his stock leg break, which had previously put greater strain on his back. During his last season with Somerset he concentrated on bowling googlies and variations than the stock ball. Turning tracks allured him all the more and even though the rewards were not rich, yet, with an uncanny knack of bamboozling batsmen he kept slipping in his googlies. Soon Mushtaq found himself getting rusty and predictable. Being advised at this point by some friends, he was once again back to bowling leg breaks and saw that wickets came in at regular intervals. The reward was not only 95 wickets for Somerset but also a recall to the Pakistan team. And after that he flourished during the Australia tour, taking 18 wickets in two Tests, following which Warne showed him a 'mystery' ball - and ten wickets in the one-off Test against New Zealand.

The 'mystery' ball as named by the Englishmen, who lound it hard to deal with it became Mushtaq's new weapon in the armoury. This delivery spirals in to the right-handed batsman from outside the off-stump through the air. On pitching, it does not break so much. It carries on its path and the action is identical to that of a leg break.

Mushtaq is ready to acknowledge that County cricket has done him a lot of good. At the same time he says, "It is very demanding and difficult for spinners since most of the pitches are slow." His first season fetched him 85 victims. The next season he had 45 wickets in about 8 matches and last season he finished with a tally of 95.



Ahmed is one of the best leg spinners in the business, and most batsmen cannot read his 'mystery' ball

He has already signed up for £100,000 to return in 1997 and 1998. He feels that the main thing he has learned from Gounty cricket is "to be patient." At 26, the much improved leggie has long years of cricket ahead.

Like Warne and Kumble he's happy to see the revival of his age old art form and be a part of it. "As a practitioner of the trade it feels great to see leg spinners as match winners." But there is a distinct spirit of competitiveness in this pint sized craftsman - "I want to be a very successful Test bowler and want to take more wickets than Warne and Kumble. Nothing personal. Just to make it competitive, I keep it to myself."

Given the kind of mental toughness and zeal that prevail in the dressing room which Mushtaq Ahmed shares with his colleagues, just show him the crack of light under the door, you can be sure that he will break it down and seize the very moment in a most enchanting way as many Pakistani maestros have done over the ages.

Rica Roy

SOMETHING T



AHOHA NAGAM

The libel case of IMRAN KHAN versus IAN BOTHAM and ALLAN LAMB brought into the spotlight one of cricket's well-kept secrets: widespread ball-tampering

FROM SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

EVER take cricket to court.

But if you have to, then make sure that you have a cricketing judge, a cricketing jury and, above all, a lawyer who, at least, watches the game on television. Else, your frustrations will be endless, while those who would be sitting and watching the show, inside or outside the courtroom, would have a lot of fun at your expense.

Imagine yourself standing accused in a court of law. Your defence lawyer

Imran Khan accompanied by wife Jemima and mother-in-law Lady Annabel Goldsmith comes out of the court after a stunning victory in the libel suit against Botham and Lamb is seeking the prosecutor's help to understand the niceties of your case. It's a pretty hopeless situation, isn't it? Quite funny too. When Imran Khan who, by his own admission, was facing humiliation, answering charges of libel from his long time adversaries, Ian Botham and Allan Lamb, the atmosphere both inside and outside the court, was more amusing than serious.

It was exceptionally funny for an expensive legal battle.

The legal legend, George Carman QC, who was defending Imran Khan against libel charges from Lamb and Botham is said to normally cost his clients 500 pounds an hour. When the question of ball tampering, the crux of the case against Imran Khan, came up for argument, the legal leviathan quickly admitted that he was, by no means, a cricket buff and wondered aloud: "What is a cutter, what is this thing they call cutter in cricket?"

In a silent, bewildered courtroom, the help, the enlightenment he sought, seemed to be coming from none other than the Judge himself who asked, "Is it like a seamer?" The QC was none the wiser.

Believe it or not, finally, the defence lawyer for the accused, Imran Khan, had to base his arguments on the interpretation provided by the persecution, to be precise, Ian Botham. "It's like a fast off break," Botham gave his verdict to a grateful George Carman, QC. I am sure you cannot help but feel sorry for a man on the dock whose defender had to depend on the prosecutor's interpretations, to win the case for him? My immediate feeling was that it was a lost cause.

The prosecution's case against Imran Khan centred around

O TALK ABOUT

allegations of ball tampering, racism and class. In an interview published in a leading Indian magazine in 1994, Imran Khan was quoted as saying, "There is a lot of racism here (England). Look at people such as Lamb and Botham making statements like, 'I never thought much of him (Imran) anyway, now he has been proved as a cheat.' Where is this hatred coming from?"

Imran was also accused of sneering at Botham and Lamb's 'lack of education' and class. While discussing the ball tampering controversy surrounding the Pakistani bowlers, he was quoted: "Look at those people who have taken a rational stand on this. Tony Lewis, Christopher Martin-Jenkins and Derek Pringle. They are the educated Oxbridge types. Look at the others, Lamb, Botham and Truman. Class and upbringing make a difference."

That was not all. Botham also sued Imran Khan for having suggested that he cheated by doctoring the ball, which was very much in the tradition of many English bowlers. In fact, in an interview to *The Sun*, Imran was quoted as saying that he had 'copied' ball tampering techniques from English players. 'I started to copy them because it was seen as an accepted practice. The biggest names in English cricket have all done it. When I say big names, I mean as big as you can get.''

The prosecution's claim was that this statement implicated Botham. Simply because, Botham indeed fell in the category of the biggest names in English cricket. Perhaps, it was because Imran's sweeping comments involved so many of England's cricketing legends that the libel case revolved more around this issue of ball tampering than any of the other charges. Even though Imran Khan did not specifically mention Botham, as

PATRICK EAGAR

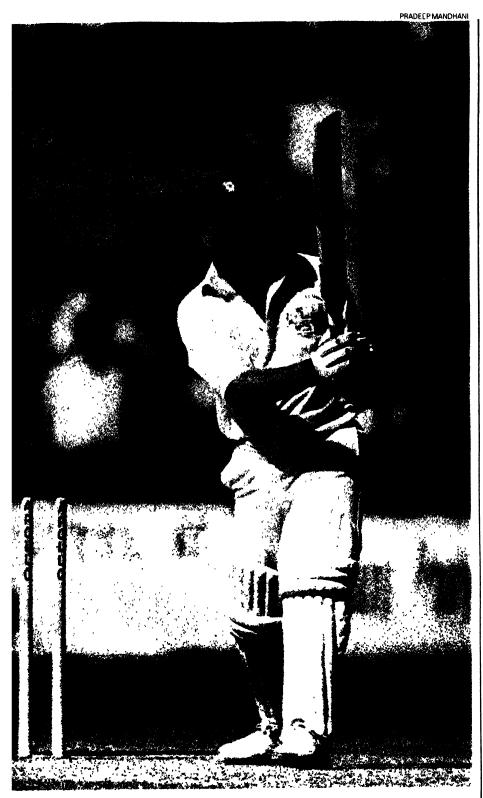
he did while talking about racism and class.

So now, cricket itself was on trial. The key issue became: is ball tampering an age-old practice in English cricket? To prove his point, Imran went to the extent of having someone check through many of Botham's games and come up with instances where Ian Botham had been caught in the act. He chose to submit two instances to the jury who had, by then, been painstakingly initiated to

lan Botham refuted the allegation that he had tampered with the ball during his long and illustrious career

the complex aerodynamics of cricket. How far could they follow, however, was another matter.

Imran's chosen footage tried to prove, in the first instance, during Pakistan's 1982 Lord's Test. When the score was 363 for four, Botham doctored the ball by using his thumbnail to pick the seam and scratch it. In the second instance.



during India's first innings at The Oval in July 1982, Imran claimed Botham gave the ball to wicketkeeper Bob Taylor, with the intention of having it scruffed on one side with the gloves.

The prosecution sought to counter Imran's claim by contending that both

incidents took place more than a decade ago; there had never been any complaints about them from any quarter, until, of course, Imran suggested that Botham cheated and actually submitted the video footage in the court as part of his defence.

Allen Lamb, along with Ian Botham took Imran Khan to court over his 'racist' accusations

But that could hardly take the focus away from the fundamental question raised in this debate. Is ball tampering commonplace in English cricket?

This is where the debate became intense, even divisive, to some extent. While cricketers like David Gower, and Bob Taylor, called to the witness box, said that they were only trying to get a 'mis-shapen ball back into shape', one of the most respected and illustrious personalities in cricket, Geoff Boycott threw a spanner into the prosecution's well-orchestrated argument by flatly saying that he had seen ball tampering as a very common practice in cricket all through his life.

This was a bombshell. It was helpful for the defence to potentially blow away the prosecution's case, but devastating for cricket itself, particularly in the country where it originated and flourished.

Botham and Lamb, as expected, remained adamant that cheating, by means of ball doctoring, was a common practice in England. But, more important than this insoluble debate, Imran provided an interesting twist to the issue by claiming that ball tampering was acceptable "within limits", and had always been prevalent among scam bowlers.

Limits yes, but then where are the limits? If ball tampering is acceptable within limits, where do we draw the line between cheating and acceptable practice? Botham was firm that tampering with the ball, by whatever means, in whatever form, amounted to cheating. But, ironically enough, the video clips of him in action, produced by Imran in court, did show him pressing the ball, to give it what he thought should be its proper shape.

But logically, was not this doctoring too? Botham claimed that he was only trying to "press a mis-shapen ball back into shape." But it was his personal opinion that the ball was 'mis-shapen' in the first place and it was his own

Geoff Boycott, one of the most respected former cricketers in England, struck a huge blow against the prosecution when he contended that ball tampering was a very common practice

judgement and standards by which he was deciding whether the ball had got back its 'proper' shape. So, after all, he was the doctor trying to rectify an ill-shaped ball.

Was this not ball tampering? Botham claimed that this was perfectly all right. Former England player John Emburey supported him too, while Brian Close went one step further, contending that some umpires had even borrowed a bat to knock the ball back into shape. But the question that remained unresolved was: how can we accept one kind of doctoring, like the one Botham described as OK, and, at the same time, condemn the other as cheating, especially the kind that Imran Khan in his autobiography had confessed to have practised, apparently under the impression that it was prevalent in cricket, even in its hallowed birthplace. So, the boundary between cheating and acceptable practice remained, as obscure as ever, didn't it?

Imran did relevantly point out that since he himself was not sure if ball tampering 'within limits' was absolutely condemnable, he did not really call anyone a downright 'cheat', except himself.

Imran said, "The only time in my life I have ever used the word 'cheating' was when I described my own bottle-top incident." He never called anyone else a cheat.

But he did try to prove Botham a cheat, by having his friends trawl through miles of video footage and presenting some of them in court. More bafflingly, at the same time, his letter to Botham described his arch-enemy as a honourable man. In fact, it was this revelation by the prosecution that did, at one stage, threaten to stump Imran. But Imran's reply once again brought the focus back on the main issue in this case: ball tampering, not the ego battle, not the prestige fight between two of cricket's



greatest personalities.

Imran said, his whole purpose was to prove that ball tampering was commonplace, and not seen as cheating. His purpose was not to insult Botham or anyone else, but just to show that, in cricket, ball tampering was a fact of life. His contention was considerably strengthened when Derek Pringle went to the extent of confessing that he himself had done it time and again, lifting the seam of the ball. And, as interesting and blunt as ever, Boycott described some of the

methods adopted by bowlers nowadays to hoodwink the omnipresent television cameras.

So, the controversy continues to rage and will do so, unless people get rid of their ego and recognise the issue as more of cricketing importance than about personal grievances and fights.

STOP PRESS:Imran Khan won the court case against lan Botham and Allan Lamb. A jury comprising seven men and five women, by a vote of 10-2 announced the verdict.

■



THE VERDICT IS!

In the 19th June issue of Sportsworld we had carried an opinion poll where we asked our readers to air their views on the maladies that have afflicted Indian cricket. Over the past two months we have been inundated with entries and after going through them we were enlightened, to say the least. We feel that at last we have been able to gauge the pulse of the cricket lovers of India. Though most the answers could be predicted what surprised us was the overwhelming consensus of the masses on some very important issues. A very heartfelt thank you to all the readers who participated. We present herewith the results of the poll

1. Was Kapil given his due respect by the then manager and captain before he quit?

Yes: 38% -- No:62%

2. Vinod Kambli was dropped after the World Cup. The perceived ground was either poor performance or indiscipline.

According to you, who deserved to be dropped on the following grounds

a) Poor performance in the Wills World Cup:-

Azhar: 42%, Prabhakar: 6%, Kambli & others: 52%

b) Indiscipline:-

Azhar: 48%, Kambli: 38%, Others: 14%

3. Prabhakar's two overs against Sri Lanka cost him a berth in the squad.

a) Is it justified?

Yes: 20% --- No: 80%

b) Does the national squad still require Prabhakar's service? Yes: 66% — No: 34%

4. Whose resignation(s) would do good to Indian cricket?

The captain.....71%

Selection committee.....47%

5. Does the national squad still require Sidhu's service? Yes: 86%—No:14%

6. Who should be the next Indian captain? Sachin Tendulkar: 64%

7. Should the zonal system be dispensed with? Yes: 63% — No: 37%



CARTOON BY ARTHUR CARDOZO

News Item: Andre Agassi was upstaged by a flock of geese during a tennis match against Karol Kareca of Slovakia at the Atlanta Olympics. They flew in formation across the stadium, then scattered droppings in unison on a lamily of five sitting in the stands.



HAT Andre Agassi did not know was that the geese were taking part in their own Olympics,

which was being held in nearby Athens. This was the shooting event for families. The geese were supposed to aim their droppings at the heads of the spectators, but they should all be sitting on the same row. The world record was three droppings

What the spectators did not know was that, in front of their eyes, a world record had been set. Five droppings had landed, one after the other, on the heads of father, mother, son, daughter and poodle. (The poodle shouted "Koota Ka Bachcha" at the departing geese). This world record was set by Aloo Prasad of India and his family.

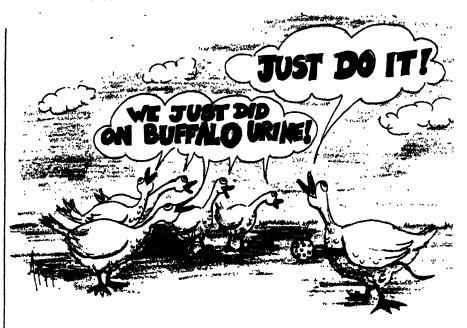
At the press conference, a jubilant Aloo Prasad shouted into the microphones: "Now, none of you can say, 200 million Indian geese and not a single medal."

The world press were mystified. An American reporter spoke for everyone, "I didn't know that there were sharpshooters in India. Besides, where did he get the money to come and participate in these expensive Olympics?"

"Must be the money from the fodder scam," an Indian geese of a journalist said. Aloo heard the exchange. He yelled at the Indian journalist, "You fool, try to appreciate my achievement. I set a world record in scamming."

It was true. In the scam world, Aloo Prasad had indeed set a world record. The Swiss banks had to hire ten vaults to store the loot.

However, the Yadavs became the toast of the Olympics. The advertisers lined up to sign contracts with the family. Nike approached the Yadavs with its 'Just Do It' campaign. They



offered Aloo Prasad \$three million. But a sad-looking Aloo declined by saying, "I have eleven children. It's not possible for me to just do it. My poor wife will die."

Fstee Lauder, the world famous perfume company, asked for exclusive rights to use the perfume emanating from Aloo's armpits. They asked how it was made. He explained, "It's a mixture of cow dung, gobar gas and vanaspati ghee. Also, it is essential not to have a bath for ten days."

Elizabeth Hurley, the representative of *Estee Lauder*, took a sniff. She's at present in Sloan Kettering hospital in New York in a comatose state. Said an unrepentant Aloo, "Want to have a divine coma? Smell my armpit. It's the pits of the world."

Estee Lauder, notwithstanding Hurley's coma, bought the exclusive rights immediately.

Meanwhile, the Yadavs gave their customary droppings for the compulsory dope tests. Back home, the President of India said it was one of the greatest achievements by an Indian geese. He announced the conferring of the nation's highest award, the 'Double Anda Omelette' on Aloo Prasad. His home state of Bihar announced the conferring of the Murgi Chor award, the State's highest honour. Aloo had won this award just last year for the fodder

scam. But an Olympic gold medal was an Olympic gold medal. The Bihar press hailed the achievement as *The Return Of Jewel Thief*.

A day later, the results of the test was announced. The Yadavs had lailed it comprehensively. Two things were discovered. The family had drunk buffalo urine (a totally illegal method as it sharpens your eyesight ten times). Secondly, a physical check came up with another surprising discovery: in the place where the droppings come out, a telescopic rifle was found

How could the Yadavs not win? It was blatant cheating at its worst.

"This is a Western conspiracy," Aloo screamed.

But the President of the IOC simply repeated the motto of the Anti-Doping Commission. "Tu chor, mein sipahi." The Yadavs were stripped of their gold medal. Ben Johnson sent a condolence fax: "Mr Prasad, the world is a 'fowl' place. There is no hope, you dope."

A loo Prasad had no option but to announce his retirement. But he spiritedly said, "I'll still be a player in the scam events, come what may. After all, I am the world record holder there." He paused and then stated his winning philosophy:

"Aloo mera naam, chori mera kaam." Shevlin Sebastian



Niscover a Passion





for those who value taste

TO TO THE WOOR LD

Maharaj!

Sourav Ganguly, the pride of Bengal, up close and personal



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Kinetic Honda. It is a synthetic based new generation 2T Oil which provides quick start, low smoke and exceptional engine and spark plug cleanliness. Thus adding life to your engine.

Kinetic Honda Genuine 2T Oil. The perfect companion for your Kinetic Honda.





Lifemates. Kinetic Honda Genuine 2T Oil and Kinetic Honda.

Available at Indiancil petrol stations and Kinetic Honda service centres.

Sports

MAHARAJ!

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Sourav Ganguly, the pride of Bengal, up close and personal

CAST IN BRONZE!

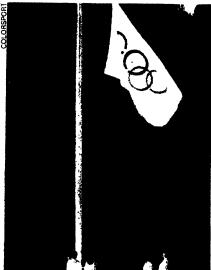
Leander Paes did his country proud when he won the bronze medal at the Atlanta Olympics. Can he soar on the ATP circuit from here?

GONE WITH THE WIND!

Atlanta left us with a few unanswered questions and a lot of lasting images







CARTOON CORNER

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U.S.WOMEN GYMNASTS' GOLDEN RUN

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CRESCENT BRIGADE: FOCUS ON PAK CRICKET

INZAMAM'S HAQ

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SPOTLIGHT ON STEFFI GRAF

TENNIS INDEX

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SNAFU: THE CENTENNIAL GAMES

INDIAN RUGBY: AN UPDATE

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FEDERATION CUP FOOTBALL

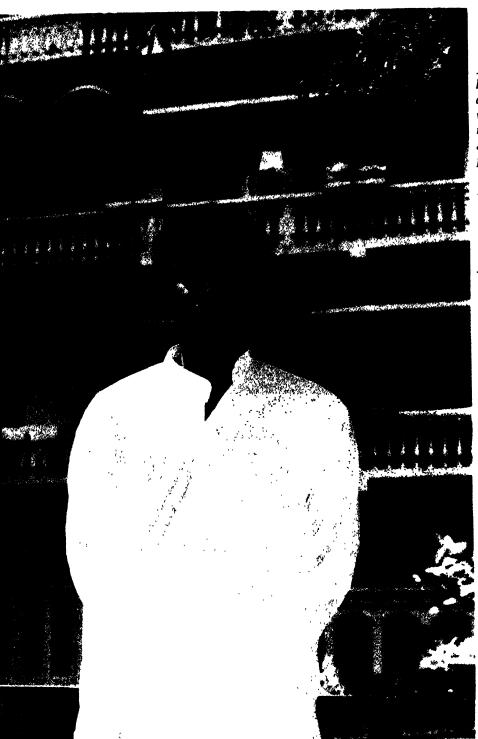
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COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY UTPAL SORKAR

MAHARAJ!

SOURAV GANGULY, the pride of Bengal, up close and personal



BY SHEVLIN SEBASTIAN

ARRIVE at Sourav Ganguly's house in Calcutta at 11.15 a.m. on a public holiday. I knock on the gate. The durwan opens it. I mention that I want to see Sourav Ganguly. He says immediately that he is not at home. I am surprised. I say that I am from the press. I have an interview with him at 11.30 a.m. The durwan says, 'Wait a minute." He goes into a small room at one side. He picks up the receiver on the intercom.

I look around. There are three blocks of buildings, all seemingly joined together. The buildings have been painted a bright red. The outer walls of the house have also been painted in the same bright red colour.

The durwan comes out and silently takes me down a cement path.

"It's the flat on the first floor," he says. I go up the stairs. I ring the bell. The door opens. A man tells me to come in. I go in and sit down on the sofa. There are a couple of men hanging around; they look like family retainers. A young, attractive looking woman walks past and goes into the dining room. The phone is ringing incessantly; nobody is picking it up. The drawing room faces the balcony. Minutes pass. I stare at the pale blue sky.

The doorbell rings again. The youn woman opens it. (I later come to realise that she is Sourav's elder brother Snehasish's wife). A plump woman with two young boys stands the door. The young woman says, "Yes, who are you?"

The plump woman begins confidently, "Don't you recognise me? I am your uncle's..." a lengthy description follows. The young

Souray in front of his house in Calcutta



woman does not believe it. She says in a flat voice, "No, I can't recognise you." The other woman's face falls. The corners of her mouth twitches in exasperation. Snehasish's wife now looks at the boys and asks sternly, "Where are you from?" The boys are silent.

At this moment, Sourav's mother comes into the room. She recognises the plump woman; she is, indeed, a relative. The woman says in an admonishing voice to Sourav's mom, "Your daughter-in-law could not recognise me at all." The daughter-in-law is unfazed. She walks away coolly.

The phone rings yet again. Sourav's mother picks it up. There is a silence at the other end. She says aloud, "Why do these people call up if they don't want to speak?" Then, they all go into the bedroom. I am left again to contemplate the sky through the balcony. The phone rings. This time, one of the retainers picks it up. There is a conversation. The retainer gives the standard answer: "He is not at home. He has gone for practice." The 'retainer puts down the phone and

The family: (from left) Elder brother Snehasish; father Chandi Ganguly; Snehasish's wife; Sourav's mother and the young hero himself

tells me with a smile, "It was a girl." 'Chicks,' I think suddenly, 'In hero-starved Bengal, Sourav had become a sex symbol. How lucky! The only females who rang me up when I was 20 was my mother and sister.' I am getting impatient. The next time Snehasish's wife walks into the room, I get up and approach her. I tell her that I had an interview fixed at 11.30 a.m. It is now 12 noon. She replies that Sourav is already doing an interview at present. She suggests that maybe I could do the interview at the same time. I balk at the idea. Then she suggests that at least I could sit in the room where Sourav is doing the interview. I agree.

We enter the main drawing room. I seem to have been sitting in a secondary drawing room. The curtains are drawn; the lights are on. Sourav is sitting with Rupak Saha, the Sports Editor of Ananda Bazar Patrika. He is wearing a white kurta and pyjama. I sit on the opposite sofa. The air-conditioner is working in full

blast. There is a large TV set at one corner. There is a body length picture of Sai Baba on one wall. On a mantelpiece, there are statues of Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and the Divine Mother. On another sofa, Sourav's father, Chandi Ganguly (a printing magnate) is reclining, his head on the arm-rest; he is reading some typed foolscap sheets of paper. Time passes. I cover my mouth with my hand and yawn surreptitiously.

Snehasish, Saurav's elder brother, also dressed in a white kurta and pyjama, comes in. He asks if Sourav has had anything to eat since morning. The young hero nods his head in assent. (I wonder about Snehasish. What could be his feeling, to know that his younger brother has had an international impact, has more talent and probably works more harder? It must be a painful, albeit, a very private emotion of envy but hidden, I am sure, by expressions of fulsome praise for his younger brother's achievement).

Snehasish's wife comes in smiling. She asks Sourav to take a call.



SOURAV IN FIGURES

BATTING

	M	inn	No	Runs	Avge	HS	C	Fifties
TESTS	2	3		315	105.00	136	2	
RANJI	26	35	8	1759	65.14	200 *	4	10
DULEEP	14	24	2	849	38.59	171	3	4
IRANI	5	9		144	16.00	40		
OTHER F/C	13	20	6	695	49.64	100 *	1	6
	60	91	16	3762	50.16	200 *	10	20

BOWLING

	Ct	Balis	Runs	Wkts	Avge	BB
TESTS		227	125	6	20.83	3.71
RANJI	23	1672	997	26	38.34	4.67
DULEEP	17	612	369	6	61.50	4.117
IRANI	1	348	164	6	27.33	2.15
OTHER F/C	5	474	326	7	46.57	1.5
	46	3333	1981	51	38.84	4.67

COMPILED BY RAVI KANT SRIVASTAVA

Souray in his office at Tata Centre, Calcutta

"Maharaj (Sourav's nickname), Mr—has been ringing for the 70th time. Please speak to him. Tell him that you have to go to practice." Sourav picks up the cordless phone lying next to him on the sofa. He speaks politely; he says that he will call back after an hour.

A female freelance journalist, whom I recognise, comes into the room. She says something to Sourav. He smiles. She turns around; she recognises me. She comes up to me and says, sotto voce, "I've already got an interview," I smile. She is holding, strangely, a teddy bear in her hand. Did Sourav give it to her, I wonder. Or is she planning to present it to Sourav, then she was definitely underestimating Sourav's virility. I get my answer soon...she leaves, holding the teddy bear in her hand.

FOR SPECIAL MOMENTS



THE MILD ONE

WARREST SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

Time passes; the Ananda Bazar interview goes on. It's yawn time for me again. Then suddenly, more visitors come into the room. They are people from a multinational company—three young men and a girl. Sourav's father gets up and goes out of the room. They sit down on the same sofa. The young, comely girl comes and sits next to me. I try to catch her eye. She is busy trying to catch Sourav's eye. There is an intense speech by the head of the group.

"We want to help the young, budding cricketers from Bengal. We hope to sponsor a couple of them for training in England."

Sourav replies with animation,
"Look, my experience is that sending a
young person to England does not
help a cricketer much. I mean, there is
not such a marked improvement in
his game." He pauses and then rushes
on, "You are a company with
enormous financial resources. This is

my suggestion to you: why don't you start a cricket academy in Bengal? We desperately need such an academy. There is so much of talent here in Bengal. But there is no chance to develop it. So, an academy is my suggestion. The West has the Sungrace-Mafatlal backing. In the South, there is the MRF Pace Academy. But we don't have anything here in the East."

"Good idea, good idea," the Group Head replies, 'we have to think about it."

Sourav continues, "If you spend some money, you can get people like Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavaskar to come and coach in short stints. That would be of terrific benefit to the youngsters. Also maybe, you could call Geoff

Being received on the tarmac of Calcutta airport after his triumphant tour of England. Note the two champagne bottles that he received for becoming the 'Player Of The Series' Boycott. He is a cricketer with vast knowledge of the game. He will do wonders with the youngsters here, if he is allowed to coach for a stretch of two months or so."

The conversation meanders on.
Ultimately, to use college slang, they
'cut the crap out' and asks Sourav
what they wanted to ask in the first
place: will Sourav sign small size
cricket bats, so that they can present it
to young kids? He could present it to
them during the Pujas.

It was basically a commercial proposition.

Sourav answers immediately, "I won't be here for the Pujas. I'll be in South Africa." Then there is a pregnant pause and perhaps, knowing the treacherous world of Indian cricket and its incessant intrigue and politicking, he adds, "If I am selected." (This was before the team to the Singer Cup was announced.) They nod. He looks





around. Then smoothly he says, as he also realises that it is a commercial proposition, "Why don't you come to my office the day after tomorrow. We can discuss the matter again." (Sourav works in Tata's). There is nothing more to say. They stand up; they shake hands including the girl who was sitting next to me. They wish him goodbye. They leave.

A few minutes later, Rupak Saha also leaves. And so dear readers, it is now that I have a chance to interview him finally. One and a half hours have passed. Sourav looks tired. I wish to interview him another day, but I know that things will be the same hectic whirl, today, tomorrow and the day after.

Here are excerpts from the interview:

ON HIS EARLY LIFE When did you start playing

Sourav with Sachin Tendulkar, when the latter visited the Ganguly household

I started playing the game when I was fourteen years old. Earlier, I had been playing football. But I thought that I would give cricket a try. By this time, my elder brother Snehasish had already started playing for Bengal. I liked cricket from the very beginning...I started playing for the State very soon. Within a year, I was selected for the Under-15 Inter-State tournament.

Your game is very stylish and text-book perfect. Where did you learn it?

I was taught the right techniques by very good coaches like Debu Mitra. It is very important to have a good coach from the very beginning.

Your father was a Ranji Trophy player. Was that the reason why you had decided to take up

cricket seriously?

No. Not at all. I started playing cricket out of curiosity. Then I found that I liked the game a lot. It has got nothing to do with my father.

When did you start playing for the senior Bengal team?

I made my debut for Bengal in 1990 in the Ranji Trophy. (For performances in the domestic tournaments, please see box). Then when I was 17, I was selected to the Indian team to tour Australia.

ON THE MAIDEN TOUR OF AUSTRALIA

Can you tell us something about the tour of Australia?

As soon as I mention the word Australia, his face puckers up, in dislike, dismay and frustration. "Please," he says, "I don't want to talk about it any more. What is over, is over. I just want to look ahead now." Listen, I know the tour was not a good one for you. (Sourav scored 3 runs in the only game that he played.) But my angle is this: I feel that Indians take much longer to mature. I mean, we are not as mature as Americans and Europeans are, at age 17. What do you think?

At home. The picture on the wall is of the Nirankari sect leader

No, I think we are as mature or, in fact, more mature than Europeans and Americans But in my case please please, I just don't want to talk about it Come on Souray, a little bit of analysis please...

He presses his lips together in frustration

Has it got something to do with the Indian team?

No Nothing of that sort It's just that I didn't click in the opportunity that I

In Indian cricket, you are just given one opportunity. If you don't click, you are out.

Precisely

In that tour, there were reports of your arrogance off the field. Your famous refusal to do twelfth man duties....

I was never arrogant. It was a misconception about me I am basically a quiet fellow. I love to be by myself That was taken to be as arrogance

Surely matters were not helped at all that you had a nickname called 'Maharaj'.

But that s just a nickname. It s stupid to make a judgement of a person by a

Who gave you this negative press coverage?

I don t remember

Was it the Bengal media? I think so

It did affect your image permanently?

Yes People automatically assumed that I was an arrogant person. But it didn t affect me because I used to lead my own life have fun with my own group of friends

You come from an affluent background. Your family has a large printing business. So, this affluence is a plus point, isn't it?

Obviously it is a plus point. To be financially well off cases a lot of pressure. Like not having one's parents dependent on you takes a lot of burden off your shoulders. It gave me a chance to concentrate on cricket 100 per cent

After 1992, your next chance came only this year. How did you manage those years in the wilderness?

I was determined to play for India I was determined to prove people wrong Soljust went on playing and practising

But weren't there times when you were depressed and disappointed that you had not been selected to play for India?

No I was not depressed I knew that if I did well, the selectors would give me a chance one day or the other 1 knew



that if I got a chance, I would try to prove that I was a good player. If I didn't get a chance, I would still play. Because I love cricket. I never eased up for a single moment. Basically, if you love a game, you tend to play, whatever be the case.

ON WHETHER HIS FATHER PLAYED A ROLE IN HIS SELECTION

Your father was once a secretary of the Cricket Association of Bengal. He is close to Jagmohan Dalmiya. Did your father's presence help in your selection to the Australian tour and this England tour?

My father left the CAB in 1986, even before I started playing. So if people continue to connect him to the CAB, then it's really stupid. That's all I have to say. Also even if my father had a hand in my selection, ultimately, I have to perform at the wicket, isn't it? People should be looking at my performance, rather than talk about these things.

Do you think your family has some enemies, that the rumours still persist about your father's influence within the CAB?

There is a possibility. People do not like my family. I think they are jealous. That's the basic point.

Perhaps your affluent background must be the reason?

But what can I do about it if I have been born into a wealthy family? It's like what can you do if you are born dark or thin? One can do nothing about it. If people make a big fuss about it, it's really stupid.

ON THE ENGLAND TOUR

Watching you on ESPN and now physically meeting you, I get the feeling that there has been a tremendous mental change. Would you agree to that?

Yes. I've become mentally much more tougher. In Australia, I saw first hand what international cricket was all about. I knew that I had to be mentally tough if I wanted to succeed.

What exactly did you do to



Sourav with a bat that he autographed for filmstar Mithun Chakraborty. The latter presented him with a cheque of Rs.51,000, for his exploits in England

toughen yourself?

Nothing much really. I just carried on with my game. I trained a lot. You become mentally tougher as you keep on playing. Sometimes you succeed; sometimes you fail.

When you failed, how did you tackle it?

I would analyse what went wrong; why did I play that particular stroke that got me out? Was it necessary, etc? It's something you have to do on your own. Nobody can make you a cricketer. It's what you do on your own and what you do at the wicket that makes the difference. Nobody can help you.

Is failure the best stepping stone to success?

Always. Failure is the key to success. I heard that you went to a counsellor in England, to get

advice on strengthening you mentally. Is this true?

Nothing of that sort, really. I met a guy who had done a course in sports psychology. I used to meet him casually.

What did he tell you?

He just told me to stay relaxed. That I should be bothered more about my game, rather than my surroundings. It's a part of cricket that people will criticise you; they will write negatively about you in the newspapers, etc. One should not bother about all that. Instead, one should concentrate on one's game.

This people talking ill about you. Were you damaged by this harsh criticism?

No, I wasn't. Because I knew that it was wrong. I knew that some day or the other, I would prove myself as a player.

But when you are young, criticism can be a very painful experience...
But it has helped me become stronger

as a person.

Coming back to that maiden Test century at Lord's, what exactly was going on in your mind?

I just wanted to go and play my best. I never had any thought of scoring a century or something like that.

On TV, I got the feeling that after playing every ball, you seem to be in some sort of an inner dialogue with yourself. Is that true?

Yes. I was telling myself to be there at the wicket, to stay as long as possible. If a good ball gets me, it doesn't matter. The main thing was that I should not play a bad shot and lose my wicket. I also told myself that I must play the next ball on merit. If it is there to be hit, I'll hit it; if it is there to be defended, I'll defend.

Normally, don't players have this inner dialogue?

Yes, I think so.

Then how come not all players are successful?

That is a very difficult thing for me to say. How come most people are not successful? I think, it is an individual thing.

What are the lessons that you have learnt from this England tour?

I have learnt what Test cricket is all about. I've learnt to take the pressure. With my two Test hundreds now, I feel that I am capable of playing Test cricket. I have that belief now. Self-belief is very necessary if you want to do well in life.

ON THE ADULATION

Overnight, you have become a celebrity. Bengal has gone crazy over you. How do you cope with the adulation? Do you believe it? I believe it. I am happy that people are happy that I've done well, especially the people of Calcutta. I just want to carry on. To play as much as I can, as

Can you describe the adulation that you received when you returned from the England tour?

There were so many people on the streets. Kids coming and taking autographs. People coming and taking interviews. People wanting to see me.



People wanting to felicitate me. It is a lovely feeling. It's lovely to see people taking so much interest in your performance and they are happy in the same manner that you are.

Is there a danger that you will get swayed by all this?

I don't think so. I have seen both sides of the coin. I have been out of the team for three years. I have seen people behave. Now that I have done well, I have seen people behave in a different manner.

What do you understand about human nature from that?

Public memory is very short. That's the first conclusion that I came to.

Did you have the experience of people who have abused you in the past, now coming to shake your hands?

Yes. I have had that experience recently. But let me tell you that I have enjoyed that also.

Is it because 'Revenge is a dish that tastes best when it is cold'? No, no. Nothing of that sort, really.

Later, I was talking to Utpal Sorkar the photographer. We were analysing the reasons for this extraordinary adulation that Sourav Ganguly had received, ever since he came back from England. Utpal asks me a simple question: "Tell me, after Independence, how many Bengalees have made an international impact?"

That set me thinking.

"Satyajit Ray," I begin, "perhaps Nirad Chaudhuri, the writer."

Then I can't come up with any names.

Utpal says, "The only name that I can come up with is Swami
Vivekananda with his famous speech at the Parliament of World Religions at Chicago. But that was years before Independence."

ON HIS COMPETITION WITH KAMBLI

I don't understand why people talk about Kambli and me. It has got nothing to do with me. There are four

well as I can.



places in the middle order. I have just taken one of them. If Kambli is good (and he is good), he will play at some other number. But that doesn't mean that he will play at somebody else's expense. I really don't understand why people keep comparing me with him.

I think.....

He rushes on, "Just because I am a left-hander, and Kambli is a left hander. But then a team can have two left handers. What's the problem with that?"

There was a report.....

You tell me something. If Kambli was dropped before the Singapore and Sharjah tournaments, and I wasn't in the team at that time, why are people comparing me with Kambli?

I finally manage to ask my question:

Kambli comes in at Number Three, the slot that you are occupying now...

Okay. Then he will come at No. 5. What's wrong with that? He is at his own place. I am at my own place. Why | at the sky. He frowns; then he says,

Praying at the Chandi Mandir just before he left for the conditioning camp at Madras

can't two left handers play for India? I have seen cricketers writing about it. Does cricketers writing in the newspapers upset you?

No, it doesn't. Also, I don't read much that is written on cricket. Especially during the season. If there is a photograph in the paper, I see it. Otherwise, I just close the sports page. I don't want to read anything that is written about me.

That's probably a very wise thing

He smiles suddenly. We are coming to the end of the interview. His brain has gone blank; he has been speaking non-stop for hours now, and I can feel hunger pangs from my stomach.

The interview over, Sourav leads me out of the drawing room. Then he goes into the bedroom and does not look back at all. I make my way to the door, feeling like a courtier who has been dismissed by a king after an audience. Maybe, he didn't intend it that way, but these slight lapses of social etiquette rub people a little on the sensitive side.

Outside. I meet the durwan again.

His name is Sunil Mondal. He is perspiring. He looks harried. We stand and chat near the gate. I point at the three big buildings in the compound.

"How many people live here?" I ask.

"There are seven families living here. It is the brothers of Chandi Ganguly and their families."

"How many rooms?" I ask.

"Iam told that there are 100 rooms." I look straight ahead. There are quite a lew cars parked at one side.

"How many cars?" I ask.

"Eighteen," comes the reply. "And you know, I have to note down the kilometre reading every time a car goes out and comes back."

"How many cars does Souray's family have?"

"Four," he says and adds, "they also have four drivers, one for each car."

"And servants?"

He began to move his thumb up the ridges of his other fingers. He looks up "They have nine servants."

Amazing really! He smiles when he sees my look of incredulousness.

"Okay, in total, how many people are living in this compound?"

"I think, with servants and other help included, there must be about 150 people."

We move to the gate. He opens the

"Why do you have to keep the gate closed like this during the day? Isn't a latch enough?"

"Babu, do you know how many people have come today?" he asks with a smile.

I shake my hcad.

"About three hundred people," he says.

"Three hundred," I exclaim, "how's that?"

"About 150 schoolchildren came from schools in Barrackpore and other such places. How can we say no to them when they have come from 50 far? Then there were college students. There were a couple of photographers. Journalists from Aajkal, Bartaman and two of you from Ananda Bazar. There were representatives from some big companies. So if I don't keep the gate closed, people will just swarm in....

We fall silent now. I say goodbye to Sunil Mondal and then I walk away.

Sourav Ganguly has become the Maharaj of the playing field. Only time will tell whether the Sourav Ganguly iridescence is just a flash in the pan or it is an enduring star. After all, the England bowling was of not such a high standard. His sternest test will come in South Africa where the pitches are fast and bouncy; where bowlers like Allan Donald, Shaun Pollock, and Fanie de Viliers are going to be brilliant and hostile. Before that, there is the Sahara Cup in Canada where he will have to encounter the likes of Wagar Younis, Wasim Akram and Mushtag Ahmed.

But for Sourav Ganguly's sake, knowing that the downside of adulation is virulent criticism. I wish him continued success on the international stage.

Maharaj Ki Jai Ho!



CASTIN BRONZE!

LEANDER PARS
did his country
proud when he won
the bronze
medal at the Atlanta
Olympics

BY AMILIAVA DAS GUPTA

ELCOME home
Leander Paes, the
pride of India'
screamed the
banner across Beckbagan Row in

front of the Olympic
bronze-medallist's first floor flat. The
local residents had got exactly two
days to plan the reception of their
hero and they did a fabulous job.
When the police convoy escorted
Leander home on that rainy Friday
morning, the entire locality
converged on 31, Beckbagan Row.
The red carpet was missing at the
airport, but the Beckbaganites rolled it
out for the country's first individual
Olympic medal-earner in 44 years.

They were all there to receive him—the owner of the meat shop; the tailors; the local paanwala; the headmaster of the neighbouring school with all his students; the tiny tots who had been singing and dancing from the wee hours of the

Paes admiring a cake made in his honour at yet another felicitation ceremony morning and members of the local club. Each of them had pooled in his mite to make it an occasion to cherish for the boy who had grown up in their midst and outshone them all.

They had waited long, looking forward to the day Leander would achieve something big. Now that he had singlehandedly ended the country's Olympic medal drought, it was time for them to show their appreciation. So what if half of them didn't know the rules of tennis or the name of the guy Leander beat en route to the precious bronze? They were proud, very proud of their boy's deeds in the world's biggest sporting arena.

The local grocer summed up the feelings of the common man quite aptly. "Hum bahut din se sun rahe hai ki hamare mohalle me ek mashhoor khiladi rahte hai. Itne saal bad maloom hua ki wo kitne mashhoor hai." ('We have been hearing for a long time that a famous sportsman lives in our locality. After years, we are now realising how famous he really is.')

The enthusiasm of Leander's Beckbagan neighbours was quite understandable. They are part of a vast sportsloving nation brought up on a diet of cricket simply because the Gavaskars, Kapil Devs, Tendulkars and Gangulys have been conspicuous by their absence in other sports. A Viswanathan Anand or a Vijay Amritraj have surfaced from time to time only to fall short in their quest to catch the masses' fancy. Despite being denied the chance to compete for an Olympic medal, both Anand and Amritrai could have immortalised their names in the annals of Indian sport by scaling the peaks of their respective profession.

Young Anand still can, in the next decade or so. In fact, the chess wizard may well establish himself as the country's greatest ever sportsperson by winning the world championship of a sport so ruthlessly dominated by Russians. But the fact remains that it took a brave, gut-spilling effort from an average tennis player to provide great joy and relief to millions used to





worshipping cricketers only.

How can a solitary bronze medal drive a country of 930 million crazy, the cynics are wondering. Well, one can only wish that they remove their blinkers to get a proper perspective of Leander's feat of bronze. We have to keep in mind that Leander was involved in one of the most competitive Olympic disciplines. The world's top six players were missing, but still the 64-man field had enough depth to discourage wild cards like Leander from nursing any medal dreams.

At 127, Leander was one of the lowest ranked players, up against a clutch of top-notch pros, keen to add an Olympic medal to their impressive ATP Tour portfolio. And unlike the Davis Cup, this was one occasion when the lack of dollars wouldn't deter them from giving their best.

Leander Paes with the Rs.5 lakh cheque presented by R.K.Khanna, the President of the All India Tennis Association

Because they were playing as much for themselves as for the country. In overcoming five such motivated men, Leander has once again proved that mediocrity can be overcome if you have a big heart and a strong urge to succeed.

The fire which lights up his eyes every time he goes out on a mission for his country has blown to smithereens many a reputation in the Davis Cup. Atlanta was the crowning glory of this fierce patriot. Indeed, the bronze Leander earned for himself and the country was worth its weight in gold. As his coach and captain Jaidip Mukerjea observed the other day, Leander's bronze-winning effort is the biggest single achievement in

the history of Indian tennis. How naive we were in pinning our faith on the Pargats, Ranas and Limbas to get us a medal! We should have known that if at all the country could rely on a one-man salvation army, it was bound to be Leander Adrian Paes.

"It just goes to show what a little extra effort can help you achieve," was how Leander summed up his stupendous feat. "There is a lot of talent in our country and there is a champion in all of them. You've got to be sincere, you've got to believe in your abilities and keep on doing your best. Of course, you also need a system which works as smoothly as in cricket."

Well, it has taken a lot more than just a "little extra effort" for Leander to reach where he is today. Sadly, he is still nowhere in the jungle of



PICTURE OF ACCURACY



PICTURE OF SECURITY



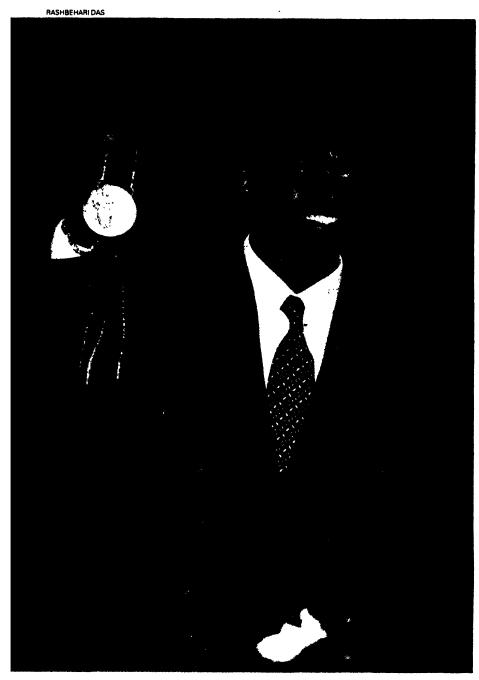
he important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part; just as the important thing in life is not to be a victim of circumstances, but to insure oneself against uncertainties.



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professional tennis. For over five years now, he's been looking to establish an identity on the ATP Tour. He's hovered on the fringe without quite making it past the final hurdle. And that's primarily because he has been a lone warrior who has had to battle through a non-existant tennis system. Had it not been for an extremely supportive family and a few corporate sponsors, Leander may well have languished with the ill-fated Asif Ismails and Srinaths.

Now that he has emerged as the messiah of Indian sport, the national association has thrown in a five-lakh award, numerous firms have joined the bandwagon and Central Ministers are promising all kinds of help Leander may need to further his career. Maybe it's still not too late. Go Leander, grab this chance to squeeze out every bit of financial assistance from a miserly, selfish association and an indifferent government.

He deserves every rupee from a

Page displaying the bronze medal at a felicitation ceremony at Calcutta

country deeply indebted to him for saving it the blushes in the Centennial Olympics. He does require funds in plenty to make a mark in a sport in which nothing comes cheap. He's been in desperate need of a personal coach for years, but hasn't yet had the resources to employ one. Hiring a decent coach to travel with him for 20-25 weeks a year will alone cost nothing less than \$100,000 (Rs.35 lakh).

That might still help, even at 23, which is considered an advanced age in the youthful world of pro tennis. For, as Leander has shown in recent weeks, he is just learning to string together a series of back-to-back wins. Indeed, the transformation has been quite extraordinary in a matter of days. Even at Wimbledon this June, Leander cut a sorry figure as he messed up loads of opportunities to go down to a player he is capable of beating nine times out of ten.

Playing Mark Petchey on one of the outside showcourts, Leander pocketed the first set in 25 minutes, only to slump dramatically and lose his way like an actor muffing up his lines on his stage debut. Two weeks later, at the Hall of Fame championship in Newport (USA), Leander was a charged up man, determined to make his presence felt. Beating top seed Byron Black en route to his first ever Tour semi-final was the pep he needed to remind himself that he was an under-achiever on the circuit. He maintained that tempo in Atlanta where he won four matches in a row and added one more after the defeat at the hands of Andre Agassi.

For the first time since he turned pro in '91, Leander is seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. This is the time to leap out of the darkness and seal his place in the sun. The US Open beckons, a bright new year waits. Can he finally do for himself what he has been doing in abundance for the country?

Give him a break, God. The guy deserves one.



PICTURE OF SPEED



PICTURE OF PROMPTNESS



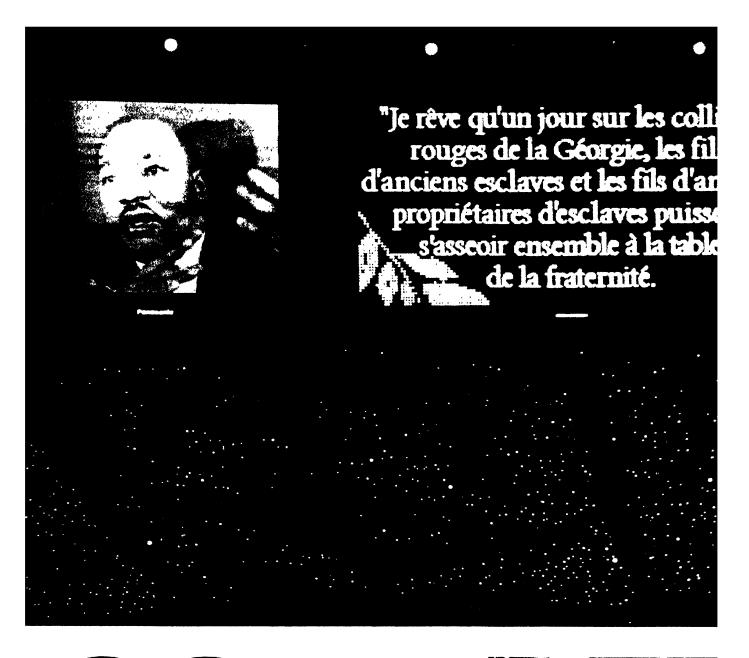
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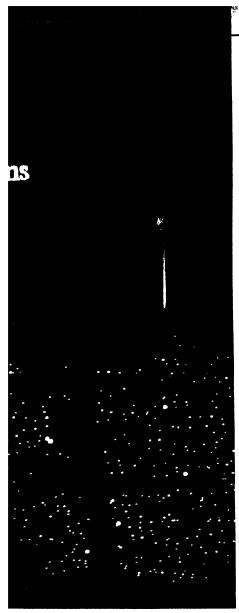
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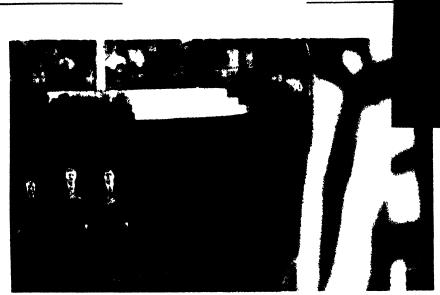


GONE WITH THE WIND

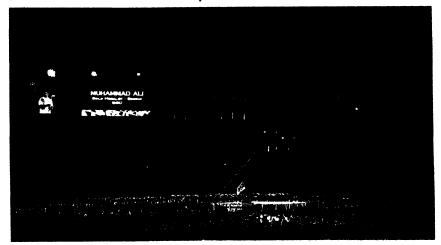
Atlanta left us with a few unanswered questions and a lot of lasting images







Let the Games begin! President Bill Clinton, ACOG President Bill Payne and Juan Antonio Samaranch declare the Centennial Games open



Muhammad Ali may have a lot of problems but he is never short on motivation. The most lingering memory of the Atlanta Games will be that of America's, and the world's, most famous sporting personality lighting the Olympic flame...even Clinton cried



Measive images of dancers are portrayed on giant screens. These are part of the razzmatazz of most Opening ceremonies

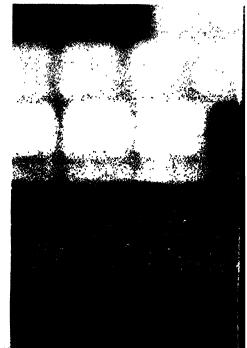


Gail Devers let her emotions run loose after she won the 100m sprint, an event in which she was the pre-Games favourite

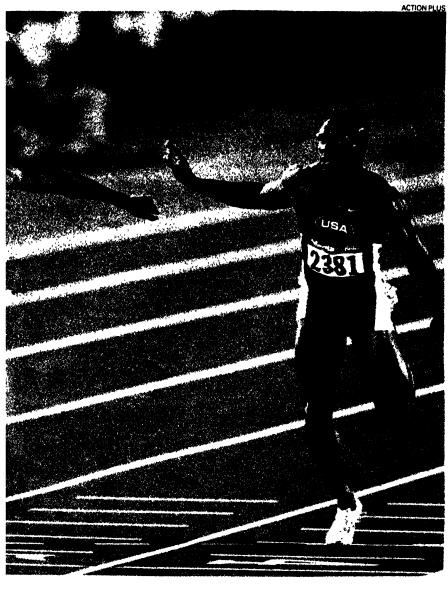




Speed...starring Donovan Bailey. The sprinter from Canada exorcised the ghost of Ben Johnson by clinching the world record in the 100m dash, thereby becoming the fastest man on Planet Earth



Strugging at the heartstrings! Kerri Strug of the USA performed with an injured ankle and helped her team win the gold. If you're looking for a champion worthy of emulating then your search is over







Athlete extraordinaire! What else can we say? Michael Johnson kept his date with destiny as he won the 'golden double' in the 200 and 400m

She reigned in the pool at Atlanta. Michelle Smith of Ireland went on to win three golds and a silver. Was she high on dope? No, just on motivation



Hakuna Matata (means no worries)! Penny Haynes of South Africa won her country's first Olympic gold in 44 years. She is now world swimming's hottest property

Right sped Fred. The opposition was no match for Fred Deburghgraeve of Belgium as he swam along to break the existing breaststroke world record in the 100m











She promised a lot but delivered much less. Germany's Franziska Van Almsick seemed a sure shot for two golds but settled for two silvers instead



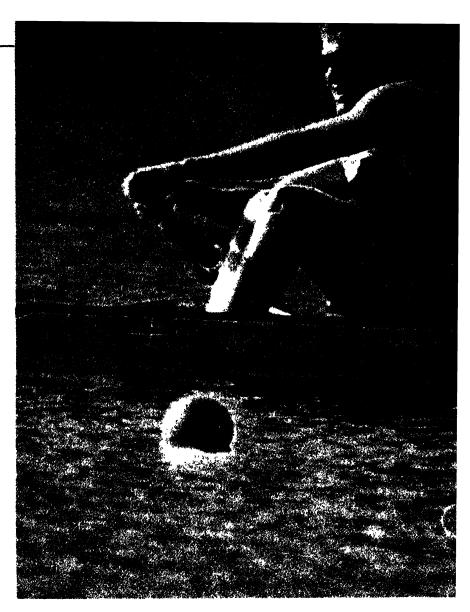
Bottoms up! Kristina Egerszegi the beauty from Hungary did an encore by winning the 400m medley in style $\,$



Pocket Hercules. Keeping Suleymanoglu company was Halil Mutlu from Turkey who won the gold in the 54kgs category



Flo-show! Florence Griffith Joyner still manages to make an impact. Here she shows off her famous painted talons on a visit to the media centra







Row, row, row your boat. Britain's Steve Redgrave and Mathew Pincent won the men's coxless pairs event. This was Redgrave's fourth consecutive gold at the Olympics. A lot many people have been famous for doing a lot less

Water-ham! Shaq O'Neil certainly loves getting attention. A simple act of drinking water is transformed into an art form

Oops! The referee stops a judo bout as Kim Min-Soo of Korea loses his contact lenses in the middle of his fight in the 95kg category

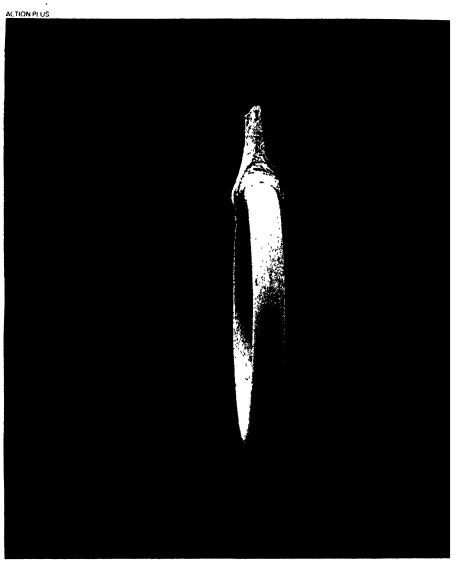




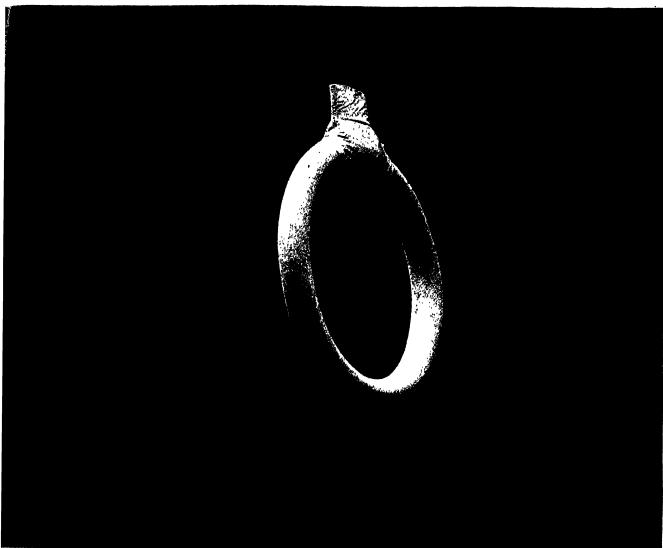
Kenny Harrison of the USA pulled off one of the most sensational upsets of the Games when he defeated hot favourite Jonathan Edwards in the triple jump



Elegance personified: Dominique Moceanu played her role to perfection and helped team USA win the team gold in gymnastics



A LOUP O



After the last Olympics of the 19th century were over all that remained were memories and images

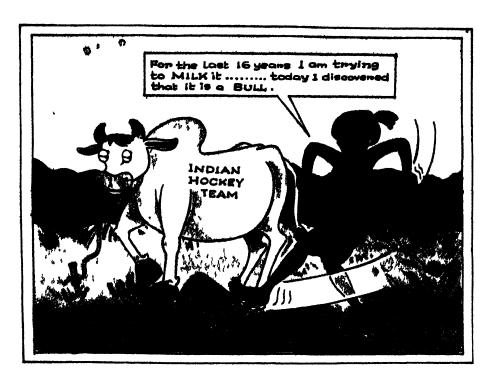
Fiscal folly: Atlanta promised the glitziest Olympics ever and the Centennial Park at the Games was proof of this utter commercialisation

Cock- a-hoop. Even though the Dream Team won the gold, not many were impressed by their attitude. Charles Barkley tries to figure out what went wrong



CARTOON CORNER

Cartoonist GOPAL SARKAR takes a sardonic look at the Atlanta Olympics





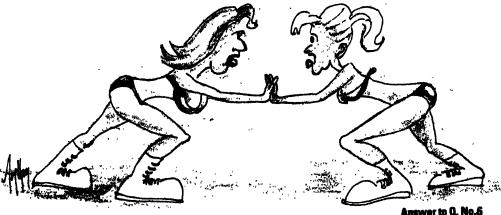


READERS

QUESTIONS

Which former ▲ English captain topped the British Civil Services examination in 1964 and went on to marry Indian industrialist Gautam Sarabhai's daughter?

"4 She was India's top √ - swimmer in the late 60's and early 70's. She acted in Junoon which was directed by Shyam Benegal and had Shashi Kapoor and Jennifer Kendall starring in it. She was also an ex-



beauty contestant. Who is

- Which cricketer has 🕽 . the names of three Gods in his surname?
- Who is the only a player to score a hundred in Ranji, Duleep and Irani Trophy on debut?
- Who is the only , Nobel literature prize winner to appear in

HRICE

Wisden as a player?

- Which sport is depicted in the movie Below the Belt?
- Who was the first batsman to be declared out leg-before in one day cricket and who was the bowler?
- In which sport do In which sport do you have the terms 'hanging fives' and 'hot

dogs'?

- 🐧 Name the first Indian 🛴 to captain Oxford University.
- Which famous cricketer was once invited to become the king of Alabania?
- Which is the highest cricket ground in the world?



- 4. Sachin Tendulkar. 5. Samuel Beckett.
- 6. Women's wrestling.

3. Sivaramakrishnan.

- 7. K.D. Walters of Australia. The bowler was Bob Woolmer of England.
- 8. Surfing.
- 9. Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi.
- 10. C.B. Fry.
- 11. The Wanderers cricket club in Johan nesburg. It is 5,800 feet above sea level.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



PRABHAT SHANKAR THAKUR. QR.NO 2R-216, HINDMOTOR COLONY; HINDMOTOR, HOOGLY 712 233.

All answers sent in by contributor.

YANKEE DOC

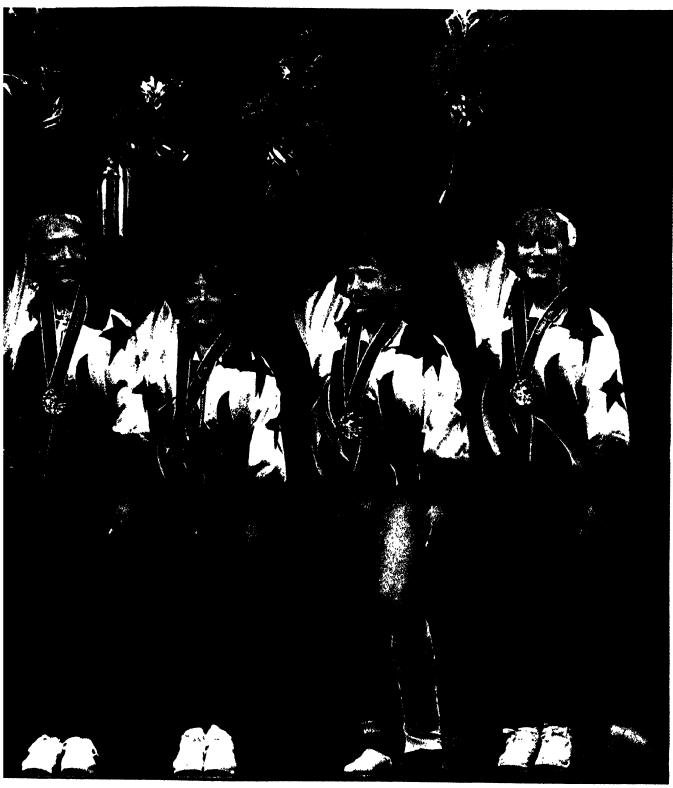
The U.S. women's gymnastics team created history when it defeated the Russians by less than a point. The highlight of the win was a valiant last vault by Kerri Strug, although her ankle was severely twisted

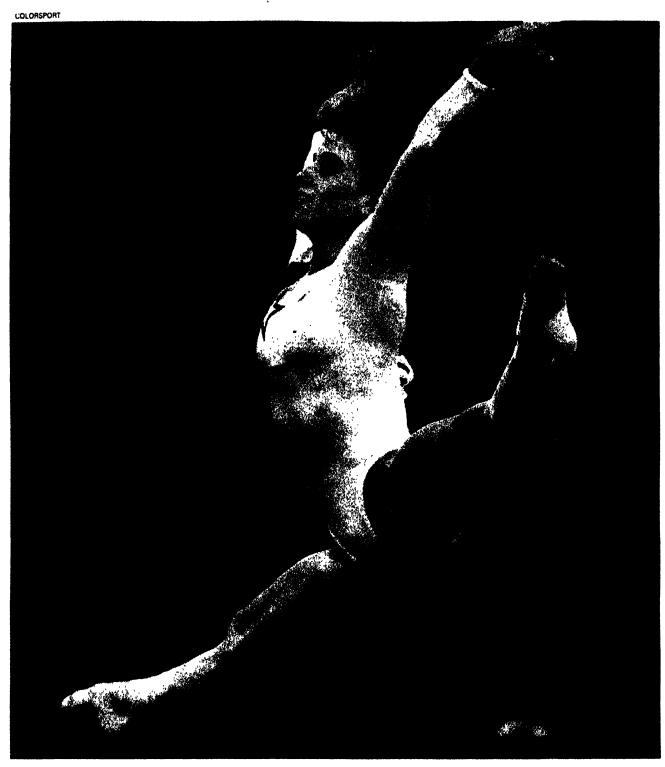
HE US women gymnasts won their first-ever Olympic team gold before an ecstatic crowd of more than 32,000, mostly American, fans. Having realised that a crushing defeat was inevitable, the Russian team members broke down in tears even before the final judgement. The US team, which trailed Russia by only 0.127 points in the compulsory round, came from behind in the optional exercises to beat the Russians by a final score of 389.225 points to 388.404. Romania, with 388.246 points, won the bronze medal.

In fact, the triumph at the Georgia Dome was sweeter than honey for the US women's team because it marked the first time that the Russian women failed to win an Olympic meet since the former Soviet Union first fielded a team in 1952. The victory by the United States, just over 8/10ths of one point, was a big margin in a sport decided by hundredths. The Americans win can be credited to a

Bouquets and no brickbats. The victorious US women's gymnastics team wave to the crowd at the Georgia Dome

DLE DANDY!





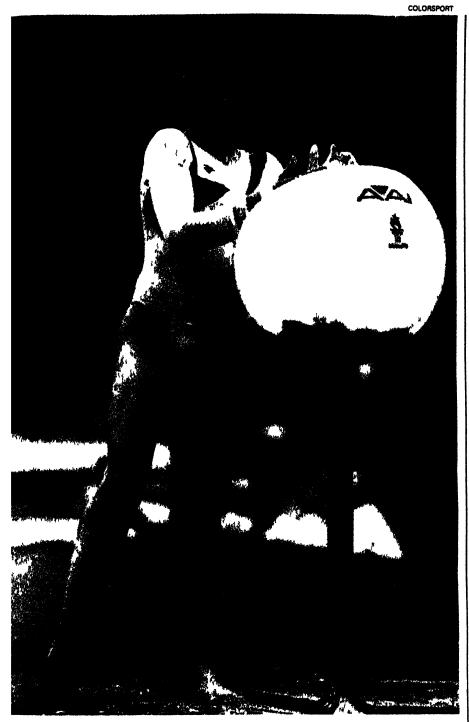
Kerri Strug in action during the women's team compulsories. She made a statement for sheer determination

gritty performance by Kerri Strug, who seriously injured her ankle while she made a perfect landing in the vault.

Immediately after the victory ceremony, Strug was whisked to a hospital. "I think it was an act of heroism," said Bela Karolyi, the former Romanian coach and added, "she knew she was going to hurt herself worse when she stood on that runway. But she did it anyway...you will not see a better, more courageous athlete than you did today."

The American team of Strug, Moceanu, Miller, Dominique Dawes (all placed in the top 11 overall) Jaycie Phelps, Amy Chow and Amanda Borden sat together afterward in the spotlight. Yes, this team deserved all the adulation and admiration, for each one's performance was perfectly executed, every routine a hit, until the team reached the vault and turned to Strug.

The beginning of the climax took



place when Kerry Strug could not land comfortably after the vault. She came on her second attempt, running faster, accelerating in every stride, as she flipped into a reverse jump, bounced off the vault, sailing high in the air and descended on a double somersault with a one and-a-half twist. As she landed and steadled

herseli, she grimaced as she turned around to acknowledge the heers of the audience on one leg—she had hurt her left leg badly—and collapsed

A stunned stadium watched the girl writhing in agony even as the officials and coaches rushed to her aid. Kerri Strug had to be carried off the arena amidst anxiety and tension. But it was

Dominique Moceanu, a member of the triumphant US women's team, prepares herself for the compulsories

enough for the US to win the gold

The next morning, Strug's parents had revealed that the cost of preparing a gymnast for an international competition was exorbitant. At one point, the family had to spend around \$300 per day

"You don't put a price on seeing your child succeed," conceded Burt Strug Their daughter had trained in five gymnasiums in the last five years, spending only a year in her birth place Tuscon, Arizona She had the benefit of training under the world famous Romanian coach Bela Karolyi who had trained the legendary Nadia Comaneci

Though Strug made the 1992
Barcelona Olympic team as the youngest US athlete, she was beaten out for the all-around finals by Kim Zmeskal in the last rotation Karolyi retired that same year leaving Strug a gymnastic nomad She went to Oklahoma city to train with Steve Nunno who was busy training America's next great star the 1993 and 1994 world champion Shannon Miller Strug soon left After another unhappy experience in Colorado, Karolyi returned to coaching, Strug returned to him

Karolyi confessed that he found in the older Strug, a different gymnast than the one he formerly trained She was no longer the shy athlete, lacking in confidence, who often let her nerves get the better of her in competition "She had grown up," Karolyi said "She knew who she was She finally believed in herself"

Strug s performance under pressure at Atlanta finally brought her the recognition she deserved. The whole nation became ganga President Clinton met her and congratulated her. She was on talk shows. Endorsement contracts have been pouring in by the dozens. But of course all this has to wait her leg has to heal first.

Then a glorious life of financial bounty awaits her

T S Venkataraman

THE

PAKISTAN, a rock-solid team in batting and bowling talent can devastate any team in the world on good days. On bad days, they are capable of committing abrupt suicide

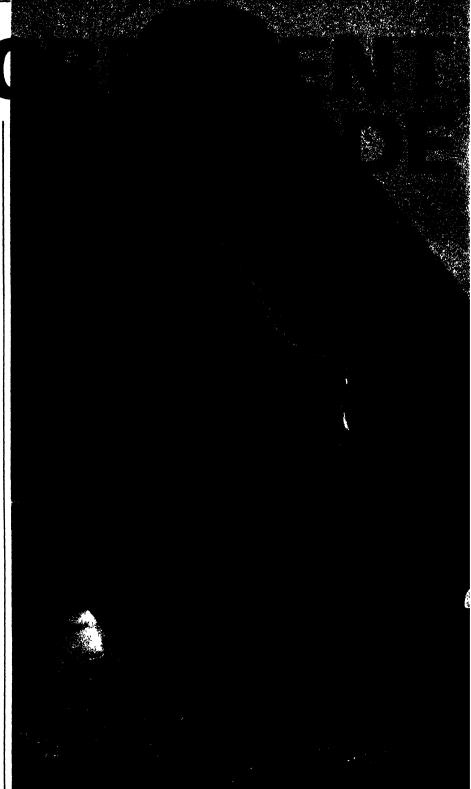
FROM SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

NPREDICTABILITY is the greatest charm of cricket.
But with Pakistan involved, that charm assumes almost addictive proportions.
Because, by and large, the cricketing world is aware that the Pakistanis are a kind of side who are as much capable of scaling incredible heights as committing abrupt suicide. It is hard to keep your eyes off such suspenseful drama.

For Pakistan's adversaries, it is hard not to hope that Pakistan would remain wedded to their inexplicably suicidal ways. Firstly, because it seems to make life less difficult, and secondly, because Pakistan indeed has, in the past, destroyed themselves for no apparent reason such as lack of talent or opportunities. Or, for that matter their sense of awe for their opponents.

Even Zimbabwe, still almost a fledgeling in the world of cricket, beat them convincingly in 1994, when the Pakistanis were just about as strong as they are now. Pakistan, however, rallied around to avenge this loss and eventually put their unfancied rivals in their place. But, soon enough, the very next year they lost to Sri Lanka quite disastrously. They also lost to the Australians around the same time.

So, it was a rather uncertain course



PHOTOGRAPHS KAMAL JULKA

that Pakistan had of late been treading. To lull themselves into a false sense of security, England apparently chose to bank on the 'downs' in Pakistan's record, ignoring, so convincingly, the positive side of their unpredictability. This is Pakistan's explosive side.
Seldom in want of talent, Pakistan had for some time been one of the strongest sides in world cricket.
Rock-solid batting and depth, variety in bowling, including pace, spin and reasonably good fielding — Pakistan



has had it all, and in good measure. Their opening bowlers are the best in the world.

Waqar Younis, putting all the controversies about his style behind him, has emerged in all his fascinating and fearsome splendour; the burden

of captaincy had all but ground Akram's game to dust, but he is back, making life extremely bewildering for any of Pakistan's adversaries. The wrist spinner Mushtaq Ahmed has gone into the business of panic-mongering.

Wasim Akram has been imaginative and resourceful as a captain of a side brimming with world class talent

All this has been arrayed to work in tandem with top class batting. Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Ijaz Ahmed, Salim Malik, and Inzamam-Ul-Huq, to name just a few Not just England their present opponent, but even arch rivals India despite having a lot of talent would have to envy Pakistan, its dream team

Against such an intimidating backdrop the English cricket bigwigs could not but pray that Pakistan had a relapse of it's old familiar ailment team infighting captaincy controversy, bickering dissatisfaction, somewhat like the stuff that put India in the headlines despite their faltering performances throughout the tour

But cricket demands more than scintillating, high-class individualism Cricket demands a sum total of collective patience, application and will power. Something that India lacked despite its glittering entourage of stars (and, of course, a starlet)

Fortunately for Pakistan, the skipper Wasim Akram has got back what he seemed to have lost in the early days of his captaincy. This is not just in terms of his own cricketing abilities, but also his authority over a side that is brimming with talent. Any skipper is lucky to have a side like this

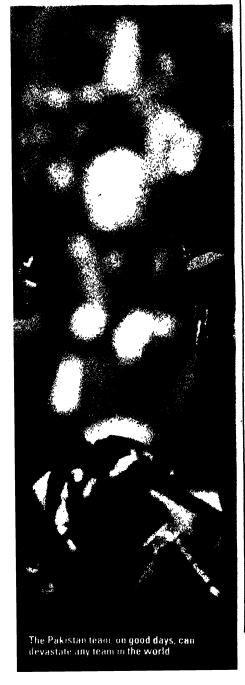
but if only you had known how tricky life could be when a bunch of young men, in most cases, superior to you in talent, in their abilities, await your command to unravel their magic. If you falter your assets can bring about your ruin. It's a kind of tightrope-walking that Wasim Akram seems to be doing with skill, for the moment, at least

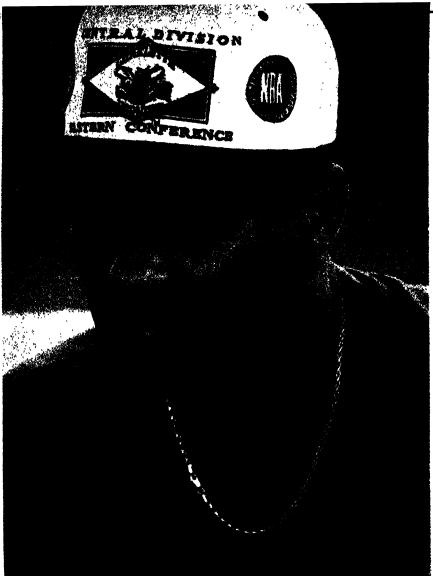
To face such a rock solid Pakistan England obviously needed to draw on the strength it used and displayed against the Indians But an early setback came when Nasser Hussain



along with Chris Lewis, had to miss the first Test, which England lost badly. But now, they are back in the squad.

It obviously created additional pressure, especially in the bowling department, where Dominic Cork was obviously depended upon quite heavily. His aggressive style and powerful bowling have given Cork quick success, but even for him, the prospect of having to bowl to this Pakistani batting line-up must have been intimidating. Especially, when that great pillar of a batsman,





Inzamam Ul Huq, is in form.

Most of Inzamam Ul Huq's innings are mostly rock-solid and flawless. He had displayed this quite brilliantly at The Lord's Test, leaving no doubts about his intentions for the rest of the series. Saeed Anwar and others have not been quite as spectacular as him, but more or less the message from them for the Englishmen are similar.

Of course, no one else has given a stronger message to England than the paceman Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed, the spinner. The scourge Younis has already proved to be, will most definitely be telling on the psyche of any team in the world about to face Pakistan; but the edge in Pakistan's attack could not have been as sharp as it is now without the brilliance of Mushtag Ahmed. After a long time, it has been a treat to watch a

Weger Younis has been in mesmerising form against England. His swinging yorkers have flummoxed the English batsmen

wrist spinner unravelling his magic on the Test arena against a side just flush with success over the mighty Indians.

There is a mysterious smile that clings onto Mushtaq Ahmed's face all the time, as he bowls and bewilders. It fits so well with his enigmatic bowling, as he perplexed the Englishmen and would continue to do so for the rest of the series.

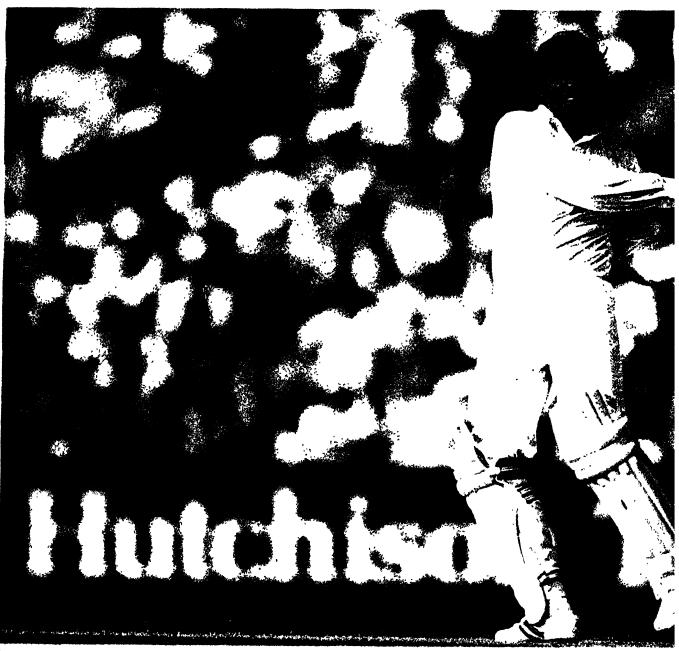
So, the fiery pace, and accuracy of Waqar Younis, the rock-solid and aggressive style of the likes of Inzamam Ul Hug coupled with the 'voodoo' of Mushtag Ahmed, can make the most explosive ingredient to blow apart any ambition that any of Pakistan's adversaries might have had of 'belittling the Pakis'

INZAMAM'S HAQ

Only one player in the current Pakistani team possesses the right to batter the opposition into submission. He is none other than Inzamam-Ul-Haq

HEN he strode out to bat on the first day of the first Test match between Pakistan and

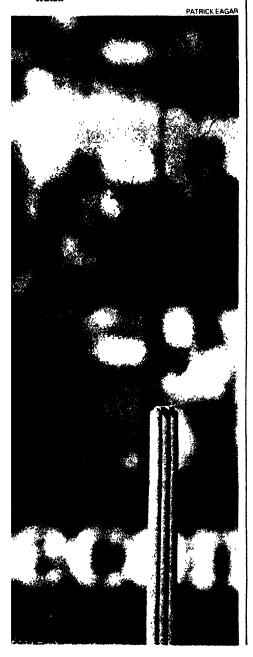
England, not many people in the knowledgeable crowd at Lords expected an innings of character from Inzamam-Ul-Haq. He had so often failed to impress that people had stopped taking him seriously and few were willing to accept that he indeed was a talented batsman



who pulled out Pakistan from trouble on many occasions. Yet after an innings of character filled with power and precision,

Inzamam-Ul-Haq has won accolades that few, only too few have received from the Lord's crowd in recent years. His characterstic strokeplay was on full view and his magisterial fifth Test hundred came from clubbing Hick for a six over long-on, straight into the Long Room wall. Inzamam capped his

Inzamem-UI-Haq might not be Mr. Consistent, but when he's in flow he's certainly a treat to watch



performance by moving on to 148, his highest in Test cricket, thus far. Having sauntered to the middle at Lord's with Pakistan on 12, for the loss of two wickets, his engaging, imposing character had the unconcerned air of a man taking a stroll in the park.

He strolled to some effect.
Inzamam's performance highlighted how far he has travelled since he burst onto the international stage during the World Cup in 1992. There, he pulled his side out of the fire in their semi-final against New Zealand with an extraordinary display of hitting. Pakistan have long claimed him as a talent to rival the best in the world. But he did not settle quickly to Test cricket. In his first series, in England a few months later, he averaged 13, with his least productive match at Lord's.

Inzamam's raise to excellence was at Antigua in 1993 where he took his first century off the West Indies pace battery. Inzamam who took a little time arriving, finally announced his presence to the world, and has since established himself as one of the most consistent in the premier league of willow wielders. Today, having streamlined his technique Inzamam averages almost 50 in Test cricket, a mark that is the preserve of the greats. In 1992 when the youngster from Lahore and a discovery of Imran Khan, embarked on his voyage to Australia, Inzamam bore comparisons to Sachin Tendulkar, so much so, that Imran Khan had mentioned him to be a superior talent than Sachin, But until the semi-finals there were hardly any sign of the latent talent or greatness. Then came the trail blazing innings against New Zealand which was responsible for Pakistan reaching the final. The critics were quiet ... at least temporarily.

Then there were talks in the Press on his English accent. In fact, he has been assisted by an interpreter all through. But today, Inzamam, an improved cricketer and personality is adept at handling his stardom both on and off the field. He has kept alive the reputation of his Pakistani pros by

fulfilling his promise on big occasions.

But the Inzamam that the world knew even a couple of months back — overweight and apparently overrated — has been transformed into a slimmer figure and a multi facted player, one capable of introspection when the situation demands, yet give his one loose ball and one will witness his flowing cover drive or his towering pull.

Hanif Mohammad, who scored an unbeaten 187 for Pakistan at Lord's 29 years ago, has put Inzamam's latest development down to improved fitness. "He has lost a lot of weight since the World Cup earlier this year and has greater mobility than he used to. He is moving around the crease better and runs between the wickets more quickly than he used to, even though he still experiences trouble with his left knee. He possesses a special talent."

That the Englishmen were aware of this talent and that they were not taking him lightly was proven in Atherton's field placing. Having done their home work and knowing his penchant for driving, they set out to curb just that. Atherton greeted him with close fielders on both sides of the wicket, but Inazamam had other plans....he had decided that he was not going to play to the Englishmen's tune. He bided the ball into the gaps and by the time he resumed occupation after lunch, the same day, Atherton had given up and asked his fielders to fall back: exactly the thing that Inzamam wanted.

Relentless hours of practice alongwith a new found ambition and confidence is responsible for Inzamam increasing his repertoire of shots. Once predominantly an on-side player, he now exhibits some glorious cover drives. But the fact remains that however much Inzamam trains, he will never be anything other than a heavyweight in international cricket. (Pun intended). But even if he is unable to float like a butterfly, he can certainly sting like a bee.

And bowlers from all over the world have realised this the hard way.

By Rica Roy



for quite some time now. He seventh Wimbledon crown last month acted as a furthe catalyst. Is Steffi Graf the greatest female tennis player of all time?

If you take statistics as the barometer of comparison, Steffi is definitely up there with the best. A score of Grand Slam trophies, 100 overall career titles, an unprecedented 342 weeks as the world's no.1 player, only man or woman to complete a Grand Slam sweep in a calendar year since Margaret Court (1970) are some of the jewels which adorn the Steffi Graportfolio.

She is still four titles short of touching Margaret Court's record 24 Grand Slam triumphs, two behind Martina Navratilova's fabulous nine Wimbledon conquests and miles shor of Martina's 167 career titles. But, at 27, Steffi is still going strong and looking good to add to her glittering record.

Doesn't she sense a feeling of monotony winning year after year, Steffi was asked by a British journalis after she beat Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the final of Wimbledon this year. "No, nothing like that. In fact, it's getting more special with each passing year." The Brit beat a hasty retreat.

That Steffi is hungry for more was also clear from her announcement at Wimbledon that she has no plans of

HLD'S PLAY

It really isn't difficult to imagine Steffi Graf winning the U.S. Open yet again



quitting immediately. But hadn't she said in '95 that she would give herself one more year? "Yeah I did, but I take it back," was the smiling retort, which camouflaged a steely resolve. Steely resolve. That's been the source of Steffi's sustenance and unhindered march to the peak of her profession. There have been steep obstacles on the way. Obstacles which would have been insurmountable for lesser mortals. But she is not just another sportsperson. She belongs to that rare breed of champions who thrives on adversity, driven by an all-consuming urge to succeed come what may.

How else does one explain the remarkable manner in which Steffi has taken in her stride the miseries that her father, Peter has been suffering as he languishes in a German jail? She has been through hell as the tax authorities back home put her dad behind bars on charges of tax evasion. Even she has not been spared and

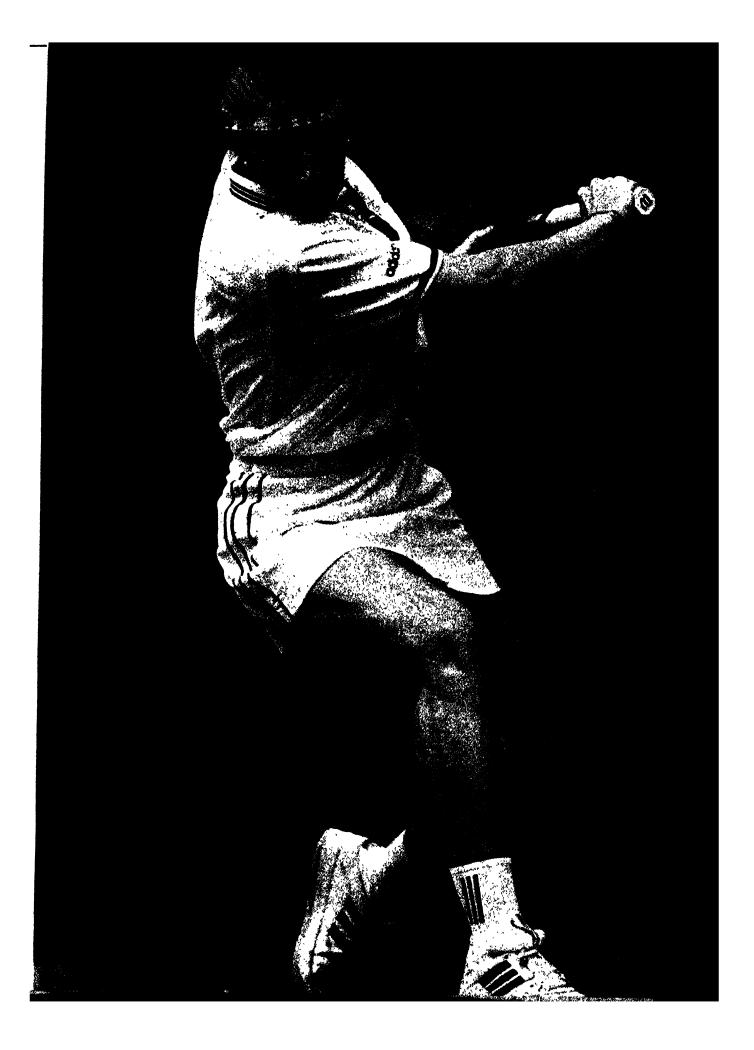
came close to being branded as an accomplice to her father's crime. There have been times, like last year, when she has contemplated retirement. To her credit, she has found a way out of each such depression.

Steffi has had her fair share of critics who have tried their utmost to belittle her achievements. None more so than Martina, who is finding it difficult to digest the fact that Steffi is awfully close to displacing her as the undisputed tennis queen of all time. Asked whether Steffi could beat Margaret Court's 24-Slam record. Martina said the German had a good chance as there wasn't anyone to push her. "Monica (Seles) is not the same force she was two years ago. I don't see anyone else who can really push her. The field is quite thin, really." That reeks of jealousy and is an insult to Arantxa. There were further hints of Martina's insecurity

You won't be getting this one... not this year. At least that is what Graf seems to be telling her arch rival, Arantxa Sanchez after the final at Wisshington

vis-a-vis Steffi's relentless pursuit of her throne. Reacting to press reports regarding Steffi's injury problems at Wimbledon, Martina stopped short of saying that the German exaggerates her injuries and has them ready as an excuse in case she loses. That wasn't worthy of a nine-time Wimbledon champion. She realised her folly and apologised to Steffi, but the damage had already been done. The German girl felt let down by her peer, for sure, but she would not be wrong in interpreting Martina's rude comments as an acknowledgement of Steffi's feats. It's only because Martina is feeling threatened that she is coming out with such uncharitable and foolish comments.

True, the tragic Hamburg incident in April '94 and the 26-month lay-off



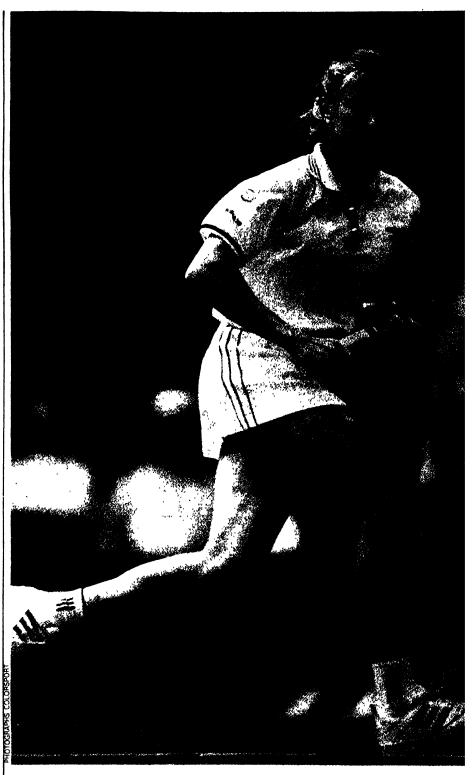
Question: What makes Graf so boringly unbeatable today? Isit the lack of talent in women's tennis? Or is it because Monica Seles is not her usual self?

Seles suffered as a consequence did help Steffi. Seles was on a hot streak at that time, having won seven of the eight Grand Slams she entered between January '91 and January '93. Steffi managed only two in that period, one of which being in Seles' absence ('91 Wimbledon). The point is, how could Steffi be blamed for the brutal attack on Seles in Hamburg? The German would have been the last person to want somebody incapacitated at a juncture when she had emerged as Steffi's principal rival. If anything, she would have been itching to get even with Seles after three Grand Slam final losses ('90 and '92 French, '93 Australian). Fact of the matter is, Steffi capitalised on Seles' unfortunate absence from the Tour and piled on the titles. None else could.

And it wasn't as if Steffi had nothing to shout about during that two-year Seles dominance. In the '92 Wiinbledon final, the Geman pulverised Seles two and one in one of the most one-sided women's final at a major championship in recent years. And that was during a year when Seles took home all the other Slam trophies.

Seles had an absolutely outstanding run till a mindless German guy attacked her in Hamburg. But there was one flaw in her record, there still is. She doesn't possess a Wimbledon trophy. She has tried four times on the world's premier grasscourt tournament --- three pre-Hamburg and one this year — and tripped every year. And if you have to qualify as an all-time great, you have to win on all surfaces. Steffi is clear on that score. Well clear, in lact. Her 20 Grand Slam titles comprise of four Australian, five French, seven Wimbledon and four US Opens. That makes her the only woman with at least four each of the 'bigones'. Quite an achievement that -one that will take some beating.

The Steffi saga is not over yet. There could well be more fireworks before



Peter's daughter takes a final bow. Maybe Flushing Meadow could be the scene for her next conquest. Or, maybe, Mademoiselle Seles would shed a few pounds and renew her rivalry with Fraulein Graf. But it would take a superhuman effort for any woman to put Steffi in the shade.

As the cliche goes, she is the numero uno of women's tennis. No less, no more.

Amitava Das Gupta





DDRESS of Goran Ivanisevic Fan Club; c/o Sandra Terschegget, Dorpsstraat 28, NL-3749 Ad Laage Vuursche, The Netherlands.

HERE the Romanian license plates on Ilie Nastase's Volvo came from: They were stolen from the car of Nicolae Ceausescu, the hated former dictator.

HAT former junk food addict Andre Agassi says he has given up in the past two years to get into top physical condition: "Just about my whole appetite."

EMALE player with the best footwork and recovery, according to movement specialist and coach Etienne Dumas: Monica Seles.

ORMER Grand Slam tournament singles champion who says she's "much more serious" and "a much fiercer competitor" in the 80-and-over division than when she was in her prime: 1938 Australian champion Dodo Dundy Cheney.

HE hardest part of Jennifer Capriati's comeback, according to Anne Person Worcester, the COREL WTA TOUR's chief executive officer: "The media."

> · HAT Pete Sampras is afraid of: Dogs.



** UMBER of ATP men's players ranked in the top 100 who have played 21 or more singles tournaments in the past 52 week's: 82.

UMBER of COREL WTA TOUR.women's players ranked in the top 100 who have played 21 or more singles tournaments in the past 52 weeks: 0.

OW Guillermo Vilas once described his relationship with Argentina Davis Cup teammate Jose-Luis Clerc:
"We have no differences because we have nothing in common."

HAT Spain's Alberto
Carretero replied when
asked what reaching his first
ATP Tour final meant to him:
"More money, more
(ranking) points and more
women."

HAT Martina
Navratilova in 1994
said she felt like because she receives so much unwanted attention: "A caged animal."

Becker says he is tested a year for taking drugs: About 8.

HAT kind of rackets
Amanda Coetzer and
Mariaan de Swardt, the only
two players to beat Steffi Graf
in 1995, used: Extra-long
(28") rackets.

the market share for extra-long rackets, currently at 8.7 percent, will be in 1998: 50 percent.

Compiled by Paul Fein

Poor Umpiring

THE ICC match referees should be empowered to monitor not only the conduct of the cricketers but also the standard of umpiring—both the home umpires as well as the umpires from the ICC panel.

Mr. Darrel Hair of Australia officiated in the first two Test matches and made many a glaring error. He turned down even the plumbest of the lbw appeals. The team to suffer the most was India.

In football, FIFA, the governing body, drops referees from its panel if any one of them is found making errors consistently. Similarly, the ICC should adopt the same method in dropping any umpire from its panel on the basis of a report from the match referee.

CHINMOY ROY,

More Contests Please!

THE Sportsworld magazine dated 3 July wasn't that interesting except for the competition regarding Azhar's captaincy that you had framed for your readers.

I would like to thank you for this very well-framed contest and I think it would be great if you could make 'contests' a regular feature or at least print one in every alternative issue.

RAJNISH AGARWAL, Vizeg



A Future All-rounder

I N the first Test match against England, Jawagal Srinath exhibited his batting prowess. He became the highest scorer by rattling up 52 runs.

He is sincere, active and dedicated to the game of cricket. He also maintains a cordial relationship with his teammates.

He keeps himself cool and steady. This Indian fast bowler has a bright future and a real all-rounder in the making after Kapil Dev. He has patience, perseverance and promptness.

Kudos for the cover photo (Sportsworld, June 5) with a well narrated text titled 'Subtle Impact' highlighting Srinath's achievements.

B N BOSE, Calcutta

More Horse Racing Please

A san ardent sports watcher-cum-amateur sportsperson I always read Sportsworld. But I have a major complaint against the magazine. It is guilty of not covering horse racing.

Previously, this magazine used to cover important horse racing classics but that has been abruptly stopped.

Should I state that horse racing in India might be ranked within the 'top three' sports, both spectator-wise, as well as monetarily. Yet the blacklisting of the sport is so conspicuous Can we look forward to some coverage in future?

RUDOLPH A FURTADO Mumbai

Faulty Demonstration

ANY Doordarshan viewers are likely to suffer greatly if they copy the faulty demonstration of the exercise telecast on the National Channel by producer Vinod Dua and his team in the programme "Good Morning India." The programme also seems quite boring even though there is a lot of scope in making it interesting.

How can the lady physical training instructor be shown doing the exercise herself while explaining it at the same time? She seems to get breathless and is seen panting at times.

Somebody else should do the talking while the lady demonstrates the exercises. Or she should first finish talking and then demonstrate the exercise

DAWN HARISH GOUR, Pune

In Honour of Excellence



SAURAV GANGULY

Maiden Century at the India v/s England Test Series at Lord, followed by another 136 runs in the next match of the same test series



LEANDER PAES

Junior Wimbledon Champion, Junior U.S. Open Champion, Brilliant Performance in Davis Cup, Bronze Medal Winner at the Atlanta Olympics '96



Congratulations

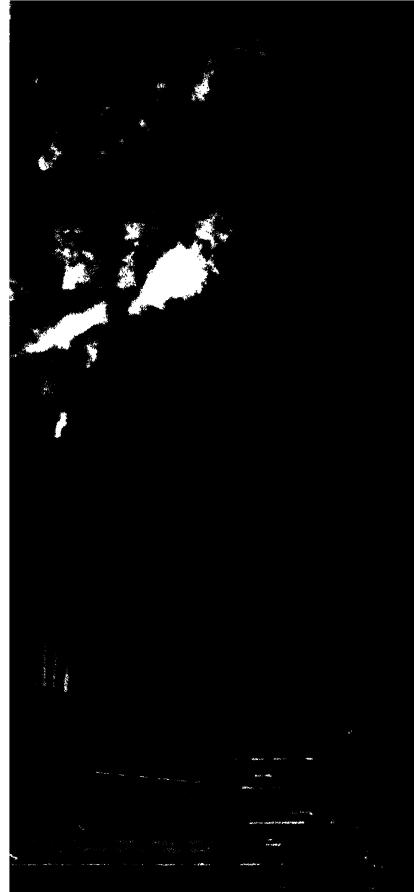
INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LTD

A VISION BEYOND TOMORROW

SNAFU

Situation normal, all fouled up. Unfortunately, this is what the Centennial Games at Atlanta will go down in history for

EROMANIA CORANTA LA LA CERCENTE





The razzle and dazzle was there at the Opening Geremones at Atlanta. The Olympic spirit however, came a point second.

TLANTA during the Olympics discovered one of the drawbacks of having A moment in the sun. You can get badly burnt. The whole world was part of the carnival that was the Centennial Olympic Games. But in spite of the great sporting performances, not everyone was delighted by what they saw—especially those watching from close up. A packed chaotic and sometimes non-existent transport system that left IBM looking more like Big Blues than Big Blue led to damning reports in international newspapers. So bad were the reports—especially during the initial stages—that people joked that had -the Games been a Broadway show, it would have been closed soon after its opening night.

"Shambles at the Olympics" screamed England's Daily Express while its competitor The Daily Mail proclaimed, "Chaos at the Games"—and it wasn't just a case of whingeing Poms. The French newspaper Le Monde had a look at the Games' transportation system and referred to it as a case of 'apoplexy' while France-Soir noted that African nations had never hosted a Games because of the "pretext that African countries do not have the necessary infrastructure. After Atlanta, any country can apply to host the Games."

In the Chinese press there were complaints about USA's 'hegemonic' attitude to the rest of the world. Italy's La Republicca observed: "When Italy organises its next international event, and we read some sarcastic report about those nice, but inept Italians, remember Atlanta."

The IOC embarrassed by foul-ups at what was meant to be the showpiece Centennial Games, moved in to ensure that remedies were found for the most pressing problems.

Terrorist's bombs cannot always be stopped: there was nothing much that Atlanta could have done about that. But it was obvious at the US Track and Field trials which were meant to act as rehearsal for the Games, that both transportation and technology were

The Centennial Games will be remembered for the gross commercialisation of the Olympic ideals. Here Olga Korbut is introduced to the public at the AT&T Olympic Global Village tent

critical areas that still had to be got right. And remember that Atlanta had six years to get ready.

Trouble was that Billy Payne, the salesman who promised the world the best Games ever, was prone to the typical South American attitude, "She'll be allright" attitude. He had consistently referred to Atlanta switching into "Games operated mode", without ever fully spelling out what that really involved.

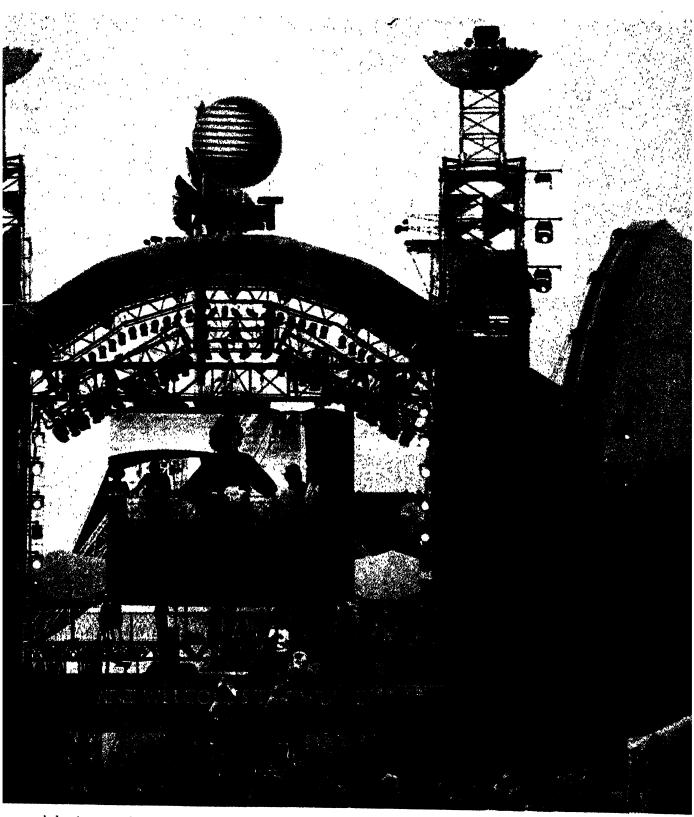
It were as if the show began with no dress rehearsals. The show began with many of the cast not even knowing their script or even where their positions on stage. The ACOG responded to criticism of foul-ups by claiming that it was victim of its success. Their point was that it was after all the Centennial Games. But again this was no surprise. And surely if you have 11 million tickets to sell and actually sell 76 per cent of that. (LA in comparison had only 5.6. tickets to sell) then arrangements should be in order to cater to these numbers. IOC's spokeswoman Michelle Verdier, whose unflappable demeanour was sorely tested at Atlanta, described the Games as "a huge machine — you have a lot of elements that have to be working together at the same time." And it was apparent that plenty of pieces in Atlanta's Games machinary were either out of synch or missing altogether.

But it was also clear that Atlanta wanted to be judged on its own terms. It staged the Games "it's own way". If Barcelona had fountains, palaces and paella; Atlanta had a Hard Rock Cafe and Planet Hollywood. In a perverse sort of way, lost or late buses, queues for everything, packed subway trains and a high tech information system that described a boxer as two feet tall (and oh, yes the oppressive summer heat) may in time seem like essential parts of the Atlanta Olympics for those who experienced it. All around the



streets were evidence of Atlanta's blatant commercialisation of the Games.

Billy Payne looked out of his window and could only see a lot of



people having a good time. And he may have even had a point for it seemed that most of the time most of the people were enjoying themselves. Except of course the man near the

CNN Building who appeared in front of the television cameras carrying a sign warning all homosexuals, liars, trash takers (and two dozen other types of moral delinquents) to Repent

or Perish. Maybe he ought to have added the Olympic Movement to his list. For Atlanta has shown that the movement ought to atone or lose its popularity and charm.



READY TO RUMBLE!

Rugby in India might be a century old. But is it finally getting its due?

BY K.O. JACOB

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET GO WITH **SERVO***



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"THIS stone commemorates the exploit of William Webb Ellis, who, with a fine disregard for the rules of football as played in his time, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it, thus originating the distinctive feature of the Rugby game A.D 1823.".. reads a plaque in Rugby School in England It was here that the game of rugby was developed in the middle of the 19th century Legend has it that William Webb Ellis' frustration during a soccer game led to his running with the ball, the incident that gave birth to the modern-day game of rugby

about the beginnings of the game but for the fact that early games played at Rugbs may have included as many as 300 players and that such actions as tripping and hacking (kicking an opposent in the shins) as well as tackling were permitted

Around fifty years after the game originated in England it was brought to the shores of India by British nationals who anchored in Calcutta in the H M S. Galatea. The Calcutta Football Club was then founded in 1872, and it remains the oldest rugby club outside England.

Though rugby has been present in India for 124 years, the treatment meted out to it vis a-vis other sports is somewhat bastardised. Considered to be a legacy of the Raj rugby has still held on to its cosmopolitan image, a reason why the game has not managed to spread out to the masses.

Another reason that can be

attributed to the stunted growth of this game is because this 'contact' sport is considered by many to be too dangerous a sport played by 'macho' men who are out to emphasise their machismo. In actuality, nothing could be further from the truth. The art of playing rugby has been honed down to a science, like boxing. Rugby is one of the most technical games, and these technicalities in turn ensure the safety of the players.

As Dr. Vece Paes, the president of the CC&FC and a strong advocate for the sport commented. "The notion that rugby is a dangerous sport has to be dispelled. The positive qualities that the game instils in the players will have to be brought out into the open in fact, rugby can be considered an ideal anidote to combat the growing stress levels we face in today's world."

Another feature of rugby which is often overlooked, and which the average spectator is not aware of is the spirit of the game which remains unique and is so essential to the sport Herman Balsara the captain of the CC&FC team an icon amongst the rugby players in India (he is referred to by most as. Bull.) and who has played the game for 11 years elaborates. It is the camaraderic which is a distinctive feature of rugger. We play real hard on the field. There is a war going on out there It sa no give situation and everyone goes all out. But once the game is over we really spend a lot of time with our opponents. Unlike other games where the teams part ways after a match in rugby we have a third half after the match with our opponents and we basically have a nice time

Dr Paes endorsed the above opinion, "the bond of friendship that is formed on a rugby field is a life long bond, that which is never broken"

Calcutta which has always been the cradle of rugby in India saw the game witness a sharp decline in the late. Seventies and Eighties. Rugby was losing out, but the love for the game saw a couple of diehards go all out to try and nurture the sport back on its feet. The reasons for the sport's survival, if it was going to make it, were noted by the afficianadoes and they in turn realised that if the sport was to flourish, it would need a new lease of life, and younger players. Needless to say the plan is working, slowly but surely

As Balsara observed 'Rugby has been revived in Calcutta because we managed to take it to the schools. We have seven schools where rugby is played in Calcutta and we are trying to introduce it into more schools. In Mumbai currently they have two schools that play rugby and they are also working overtime to spread the game there. That hopefully will bring down the average age of players. We will have more players in the 20-25 age group as opposed to the 30-32 age group that is piedominant now.

So what is the Indian rugby player all about? He is in most cases an executive in a corporate firm, who wears his spikes and jersies after work during the rugby season which lasts from June to September, Balsara pointed out that. There are a lot of genuine rugby lovers who would love to play the game but their work schedules don't permit that. A lot of players had turned out to play for

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Herman Belsara (with ball) is not only a great player, he happens to be one of the best rugby referees in India

Delhi last year but had to leave because of work pressure."

Yet, despite the untiring efforts put in by the genuine lovers of the game, rugby in India still finds itself at the crossroads. One reason being proferred for this is the fact that rugby till today is not a recognised sport in the country. Measures are, however, being taken to remedy the

situation. According to Dr Paes, "the setting up of the Bengal Rugby Union is the first step towards getting rugby recognised as a sport. It is a broad based organisation functioning under the auspices of the CC&FC. It has a member from each club and school and every member has a voice. Once the Bengal Rugby Union becomes a legal entity, things will surely look up."

Another important factor why

rugby cannot prosper is the lack of funds in the sport. Finance has always been the bane of many a sport in India and rugby is no different. A premier tournament like the All India and South Asia Rugby Tournament (to be held in Calcutta from the 7th to 14th of September) and which has seven clubs from Calcutta, four from Mumbai, one from Delhi, one each from Hong Kong and Thailand and two from Sri Lanka requires around

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Rs.5 1/2 lakhs to be organised. This money was till now generated thanks to the efforts put in by the efforts of the rugby players themselves. It is the players who go out and campaign their cause to get whatever possible help they can from the corporate houses. As Balsara, and his teammates who have certainly done their bit of campaigning, puts it, "the game today needs a generous dose of finance. Rugger being a low key sport, it does

not get much media coverage and so the sponsors are not willing to come forward because they think that they will not get enough mileage. But once it becomes a recognised sport, then we will get more coverage and more money into the sport."

Dr Paes, however, went a step further when he admitted, "we are looking for sponsors, not just to sponsor tournaments, but also to

Rugby looks like a dangerous sport, but is in fact, highly technical

pump money into rugby per se. Some companies have shown interest in putting money into rugby at the school level. Now Doordarshan has started showing the All-India and that certainly is a step in the right direction. With some more media coverage, and with more people being

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aware of the sport, we are hopeful of money coming in for the upliftment of the sport of rugby."

As of now, the game certainly seems to be heading in the right direction. The progress graph is showing an encouraging rise. All that is needed today is a little bit of effort from well-wishers who can help this sport turn around the corner. The players are not making any tall promises or

even any absurd ones. One thing, however, has remained constant: their commitment.

Yes, that's the key ingredient and the rugby lover should be judged on that quality alone. You need commitment over the ages for any sport to survive for well over a century. Let us appreciate the fact that they turn up for practice, everyday, day after day. Turn up for the games.

With younger players taking to rugby, the sport is getting a new lease of life

Play, play to win all the time, irrespective of how many people are watching. And then they sit down over a tankard of beer and try and pass on a little bit of warmth and affection to their opponents time after time, after every match.

That's life, they say. No, that's rugby.

SERVO: ON THE VICTORY LAP. LAP AFTER LAP.

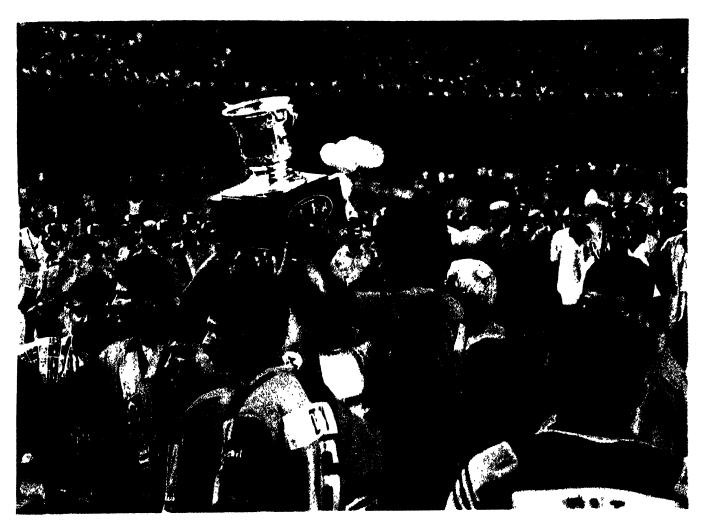


WORLD CLASS LUBRICANTS



STAR-STRUCK!

Is Indian football finally getting glamourous and viewer friendly? SUBHASH SARCAR provides a case study



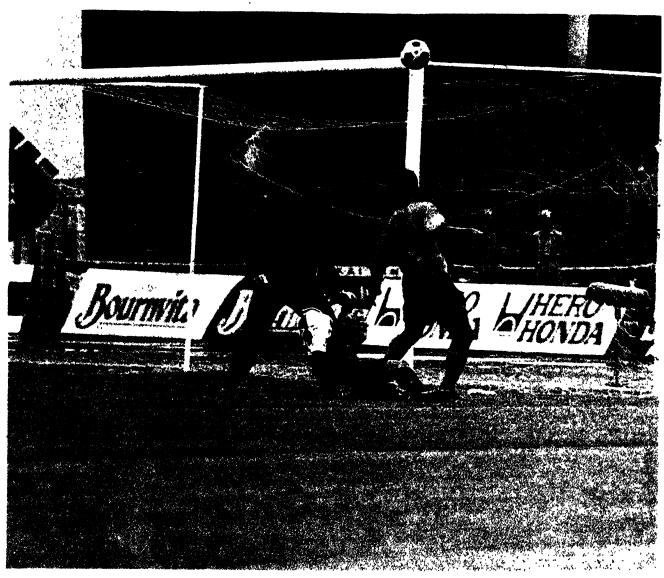
FTER one hiccup in its marketing endeavours with a certain London-based sports management company during the Nehru Gold Cup in Calcutta, the All India Football Federation has finally matured with regard to its financial strategies. In fact, Indian football has now ushered in a new era, with more funds in its coffers, more prize money and better treatment ensured to all invited teams that come to take part in

The victorious East Bengal team with the Kalyani Black Label Cup which they won after eleven years, after beating Dempo of Goa in the Federation Cup final in Calcutta

the more glamourous tournaments in the country. Inspite of all these improvements, however, one thing continues to remain constant:the pathetic standard of Indian football.

Last year, in a historic agreement for a hefty amount, the AIFF sold all rights to the Hong Kong-based, Rupert Murdoch owned STAR TV which has promised extensive coverage of major tournaments in India. After the signing of the contract which extends through the year 2006, Mr Gene Swinstead, managing director of Star TV (India) commented; "Our long-term agreement with the AIFF underscores our enthusiasm for this much-loved Indian sport."

Even Ms Kelly Butler, Head of Sport for Star TV, said that the sport of football in India continues to hold



enormous appeal and future growth opportunities. "From this moment,"she said, "until the end of year 2006, Indian football will see a dramatic change in the way the sport is broadcast and presented not only in India but throughout the Asian region."

All the financial benefits that have been made possible is because of the laudable and sincere efforts of Leisure Sports Management which has been the marketing partner of the AIFF for quite some time. Star Sports have obtained the telecast rights from the federation for a sum of Rs 3.5 crores for one year, according to a spokesman of the LSM. The credit for the enormous amount of money

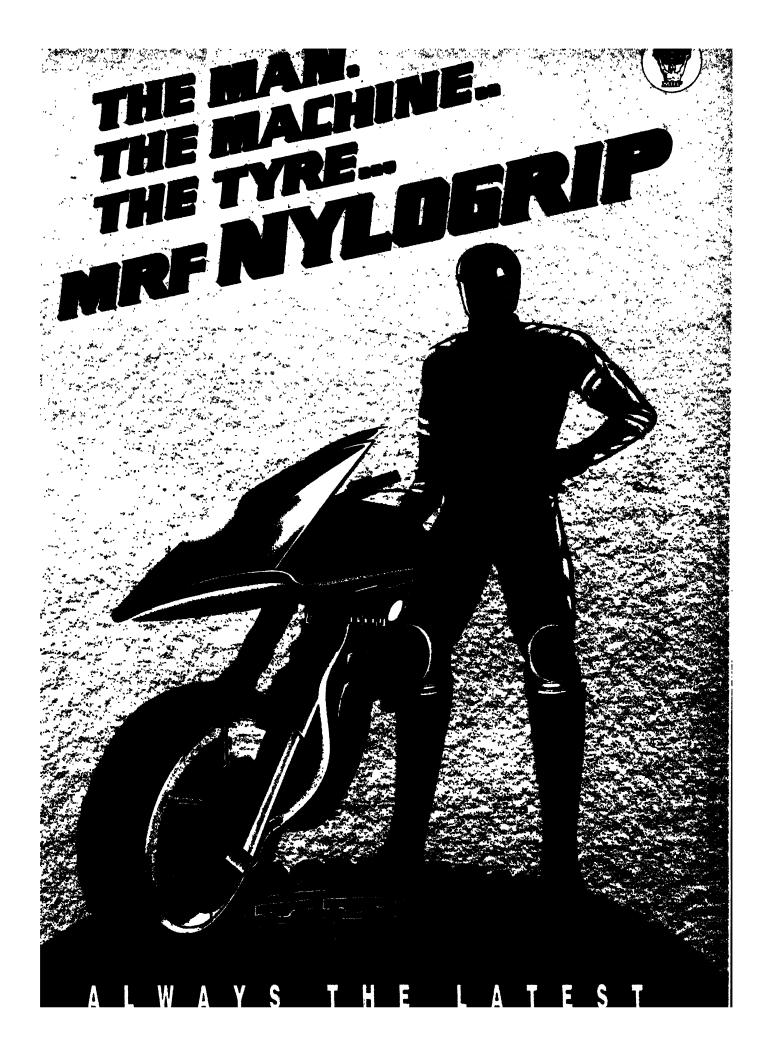
Kerala Police goalkeeper Chacko and defender Alex Abraham watch as another of Baichung Bhutia's attempts goes into the goal. Bhutia created a Fed. Cup record by scoring five goals in one match

flowing in today should be given to sponsors like ITC (which sponsors the Scissors Cup), United Breweries Group (Federation Cup), BPCL, Hero Honda, Cadbury, Coca Cola etc. Of course without these sponsors coming forward Indian football would have still languished for want of funds. Besides having spent nearly Rs 1.2 crores for the Federation Cup, almost double the amount is expected to be raised for the home-and-away National League. Who says that Indian football doesn't have the finance now?

While the football fraternity in India was overly excited about Star TV's full cooperation and support for the upliftment of the game, there was one area of criticism: why have the live telecast of the finals of major tournaments been done away with?

There are complaints that, for the sake of monetary benefits, the federation sold their rights lock, stock and barrel and somehow managed to ensure that the public were not treated to live telecasts of the matches. Football lovers in India didn't get the opportunity to see live Bengal's three-repeat win in the Santosh Trophy last year, the Scissors Cup in Madras which was then the highest prize money tournament in India, and this

62



year's Federation Cup (once held in January and then in August). Though the camera work, the commentary team and the quality of Star Sports' telecasts is far superior than Doordarshan they, on their part, should make a little effort to ensure that matches are not subjected to a deferred telecast. This only goes to make sure that public interest in the match is not dead, what with the large number of high quality international sports programmes being shown every day.

But even if the Federation Cup semi-finals and final were not shown live, the IFA made a killing by way of gate receipts when over a lakh of East Bengal supporters congregated at the Salt Lake Stadium. They had come to witness their favourite club beat Dempo of Goa in a scintillating final, via the 'Golden Goal' scored by Raman Vijayan after East Bengal and Dempo were locked 1-1. Had the final been an all-Calcutta affair, the stands would have certainly spilled over with the scalpers having a field day.

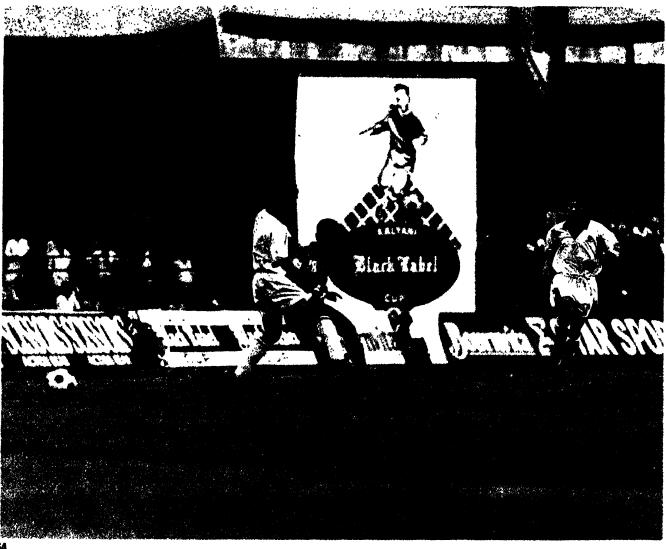
Access to the stadium has always been a burden specially for the fans of the premier clubs in the maidan. And had the finals been shown live presumably half the number of supporters would have stayed back home. Therefore, on the flip side, the federation's game plan to sell the rights and stop live telecast so that the organisers can profit from the gate receipts at the venue can be termed as

East Bengal's Tushar Rakshit, who netted his club's first goal, being intercepted by a Dempo defender_

a shrewd marketing move.

August 11, 1996 is a red letter day in Indian football. Because on that day (despite the game's appalling standards) football took a mighty leap forward in the form of prize money. Never in the history of the game has so much money suddenly started flowing in in the form of cash awards to the top five teams in the tournament. That apart, the game of football can now merit comparison (in terms of prize money) with any high profile sport in the country. Once considered to be 'second class' citizens, top club players of this mass-based sport will never be looked down upon again.

The invited teams are now given first-class treatment and they seem content. With this new-found vision





of the AIFF one is sure that players are already getting inspired and and will try to give it their all. And again, with Star Sports proving to be a suitable medium with regard to proper visibility and coverage of the game, teams should be able to raise their standards as other Asian countries will be watching us minutely. This visibility might also be beneficial for the Indian footballer. The talented ones may be able to carve a niche for themselves by trying to pursue their careers as professionals in some of the top clubs in Asia. JCT's, and currently India's best footballer, Baichung Bhutia who scored a record five goals against Kerala Police is an apt case in

East Bengal, who became the Champion Club of India after remaining in the wilderness for eleven years, were awarded a hefty winner's cheque of Rs. 10 lakh, runners-up Dempo Rs. 7.5 lakh, JCT Rs. 5 lakh etc. With such monetary benefits the clubs have already been somewhat relieved of their financial burdens. And if their performance graphs continue to soar, their monetary problems will conversely take a nosedive.

Now all eyes are set on the National League scheduled to be held from December 16 because the winners will take home a huge sum of Rs. 45 lakhs and the runners-up Rs. 25 lakhs. The big teams are already licking their lips at such tempting bounty.

Star Sports are, as usual, all geared up for the big show. The boom in Indian football is finally being revived. This has been endorsed by none other than Mr Rik Dovey, Head of Sports Broadcasting Star Sports. 'The coverage of the Kalyani Black Label Cup was undoubtedly the best ever of an Indian football tournament.'

Mr Deepak Gupta, Producer In-charge of Star Sports Production in India did not hesitate to express his satisfac:ion when he elaborated: "To

A Star Sports camera installed at the venue: bringing in better visibility to the game

ensure that every nuance of the game was captured on tape, we had seven cameras and two mini-cams covering the game. Using sophisticated editing equipment at the ground itself, the match reached Hong Kong in a fully edited state. Since it was a deferred telecast and we had the luxury of time in our hands, the graphics were incorporated at our facilities in Hong Kong. The finished product that went on air was by any standards world class as proven by the tremendous fan mail...This bodes well for the future football events. Afterall, we have a ten year agreement with the AIFF and will be telecasting over 40 games in the first year itself."

Question: Is Indian football showing signs of a renaissance? Well, the powers that be certainly have stars in their eyes.

PHOTOGRAPHS ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

Jucum Camp

'SN'T it funny that when we look back on the Atlanta Games now, that all the dust has seemed will remember so many of the that all the dust has settled, we off-field happenings, as if there were no great performances on the field at all. Well, obviously, the bomb was a happening that will long be remembered in Olympic history. Yet the media has such an influence over how we remember a sporting event that, high on the list of Atlanta memories, will be the transport services at the Games. You might ask the reason why? Well, I have done my share of the international sporting circuit, so I'll tell you why.

own pockets to get from one place to another.

One journalist wrote of how the big blue buses, were mostly driven by ladies who were so large that they ought to have been arrested for wearing shorts. Well, the media ought to give a thought about the unluckiest guy at the Olympics: the Italian photographer who got hit and killed by a bus. Most of the other journalists claimed that they couldn't even find a bus, leave alone, get hit by one.

And spare a thought for 1992 judo gold medalist David Khakhaleichvili, from the former Soviet republic of Georgia. He lost the chance to defend police trying to stop them.

Or perhaps he ought to have followed the example of Steven Redgrave, England's flag bearer and dual gold medalist in Olympic rowing. Having no faith in the Games operations, he borrowed a car that had been set aside for Princess Anne, after a rowing venue bus failed to turn up in time. Yet, ultimately, Atlanta will be remembered for the victories and failures in competitions rather than the buses that got lost or never arrived.

The Mayor of Atlanta Bill Campbell was didsdainful of the media who kept



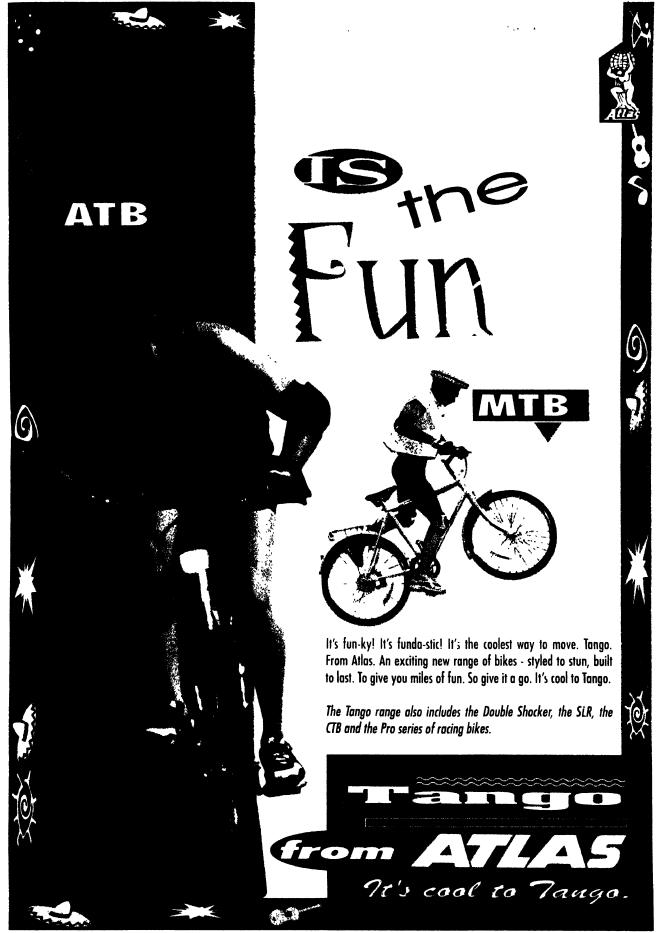
CARTOON BY ARTHUR CARDOZO

Apart from the athletes themselves, it was the media who were affected most by the admittedly putrid transport network in Atlanta. After all, many of the 15000 media persons present had budgeted for free transport, having been so pampered in previous Olympic Games. It would be tempting to say that they made a mountain out of a molehill because many of them had to pay out of their

his title when he got caught in traffic and missed the weigh-in. Maybe, the guy ought to have learnt an example from the group of British, Polish and Ukrainian rowers who waited and waited for a bus to take them 100 km to the Lake Lanier venue. When a bus for the field hockey venue arrived, the rowers clambered aboard and hijacked the bus, ordering the driver

hijacked the bus, ordering the driver to go to their venue and to ignore criticising the Atlanta Games. "They should take them out to the shooting venue and get rid of them," he had said. Many of the media present thought there was no chance of that happening at all. Simply because they would not be able to find a bus to take the guilty to the shooting range in the first place.

Andy O'Brien, Melbourne



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The Friendship Copf Corr for it. An adia-Pakasan match will always grovide a good so-a

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maintenance costs. In other words, **SERVO** simply adds life to your engines.

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September, 1996. Volume 17. Issue 24. An Ananda Bazar Publication. Rs. 15.00



GEORGE FRANCIS/SCORP NEWS

113

FRIENDS?

The Friendship Cup? Don't fall for it. An India-Pakistan match will always provide a good scrap

35,

'WAQARED'

Waqar Younis is the most intimidating fast bowler in world cricket today

LA GAZELLE!

. . . .

Marie Jose Perec continues to impress both on and off the field

MCINUDDIN HAMID





14

SOURAV GANGULY'S MARRIAGE

24

RUUD GULLIT: CHELSEA'S NEW BOSS

74

EUROPEAN SOCCER UPDATE

3:

WHO'S THE FASTEST SPRINTER?

PROFILE: PENNY HEYNS

) في: ا

FADING SEVE BALLESTEROS

JONAH LOMU'S INJURY

PAK-ENGLAND SERIES REVIEW

200

SIDHU'S 50-DAY BAN

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF WASIM AKRAM BY ALOKE MITRA. PHOTOGRAPH OF SACHIN TENDULKAR BY PABITRA DAS





Remember when you heard a melody wafting through a window, and you stopped, forgetting where you were going. Or when you unabashedly broke into a little jig on a street corner.

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WAR GAMES!

Sports transcends all barriers? An India-Pakistan match will always be an exception to the rule.
Ask the cricketers. Ask the public

BY SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

HEN Pakistan came here on their just-concluded tour of England, the English Press described the series as a "renewal of hostilities" between the two cricketing nations. English cricket writers wondered why there is such a bad feeling between these two cricketing giants. Is it the years of mutual distrust, the frequent accusations of cheating, or does it go back further to the legacy of Partition?

Just think how relevant such thoughts can be in the case of India and Pakistan, too. In fact, I find it much more relevant and appropriate in the subcontinental context than in Pakistan's cricketing relations with England. Firstly, because as we all know, the two countries have fought several covert and full-scale wars in the last 50 years and even now they are eager to outdo each other in their pursuit of nuclear ambitions; but more importantly, why should Pakistan be angry with the British for the Partition anyway? Partition created Pakistan, and the British presided over it, didn't they?

On the other hand, the reasons why Pakistan was created over the dead bodies of millions of innocent people, still remain and will remain as long as religion is accepted as the raison d'etre of breakaway nations.

But surprisingly, the hostility that

English cricket watchers feared would erupt during Pakistan's England tour, does not cause so much gall among the players of India and Pakistan, as it does among the players of England and Pakistan. When the two subcontinental cricketing leviathans meet, it is not so much the players but the fans on the stands, and beyond, who bask in the excitement of a proxy war; when England and Pakistan meet, the hostilities erupt right out in the middle.

They say it all started from a prank played on a Pakistani umpire by the visiting Englishmen. Back in 1956, living in a rundown colonial palace in Peshawar, the bored Englishmen decided to demonstrate their sense of humour and cheer themselves up a bit by throwing a bucket of cold water on a Pakistani umpire, Idris Begh.

The victim, reportedly, thought it was funny, but the authorities thought it was an insult, not just to the person concerned, but to the whole nation. The consequent diplomatic row between the two countries, eventually forced MCC to apologise, offer to cancel the tourand pay compensation.

The tour, however, did go on, though understandably, the Englishmen, having seen their joke

Enthusiastic spectators cheering during the World Cup quarter final against Pakistan



Venkatesh Prased is in a jubilant mood after taking the scalp of Inzamam-ul-Haq during the World Cup quarter final

turn so sour, could not keep on the camaraderie; and relationship between these two teams has never been easy ever since.

Politically, the relationship between India and Pakistan has not been easy either over these last 50 years. They have fought several wars, Pakistan had been vivisected in the 1971 war, and the generals and politicians in Islamabad often dream that they can still avenge the '71 amputation by snatching Kashmir away from the Indian union. And as long as India is viewed by Pakistan as Hindu India, despite her secular credentials, the enmity will smoulder.

It would have been naive to expect that this politics of hate would remain confined to politics alone. The creation of Pakistan tore apart the very fabric of the Indian society. It did not just affect the politics of the newly-independent subcontinental nations. It affected ordinary people the most. Entire communities were uprooted from their homeland and sent across the newly-drawn border to nowhere.

Perhaps, those bloody memories would have faded away, it India and Pakistan had not gone to war so frequently in the last five decades. Perhaps, cricket would not have been seen as the theatre of *jehad* by many in Pakistan, who thought that India's debilitating blow on Pakistan has not yet been avenged.

There has been no dearth of such people on the Indian side either, who, in the absence of a war or communal riots, have seen cricket as the most convenient rallying point for their anti-Pakistan, anti-Muslim cause. While many people thought that more matches between the two neighbours would not only help their cricket, but also create goodwill between the two, some political groups even threatened to dig up wickets, burn down stadiums, if the Pakistanis ever stepped onto Indian soil.

Even the World Cup, at one stage



looked vulnerable. Fortunately, however, nothing untoward really happened during the actual tournament, not even when Pakistan was ousted from the tournament by arch-rivals India, despite an extremely provocative statement

from a Hindu leader that he would like to see tears in the eyes of the Indian Muslims, if India lost.

Sadly, it is against this backdrop that India and Pakistan would have to continue to face each other in the arena of sport. There are not very



many sports where these two countries have really excelled. But where they have, they can be world-beaters. In hockey, Pakistan has kept the Asian flag flying against all odds; in cricket both India and

their sporting contacts generate such unsporting passions (and this was even reflected in a pitch invasion in the India-Pak Under-15 World Cup final, with India on the brink of victory), it is always a better idea to Pakistan are formidable powers. But if | have them play each other on neutral



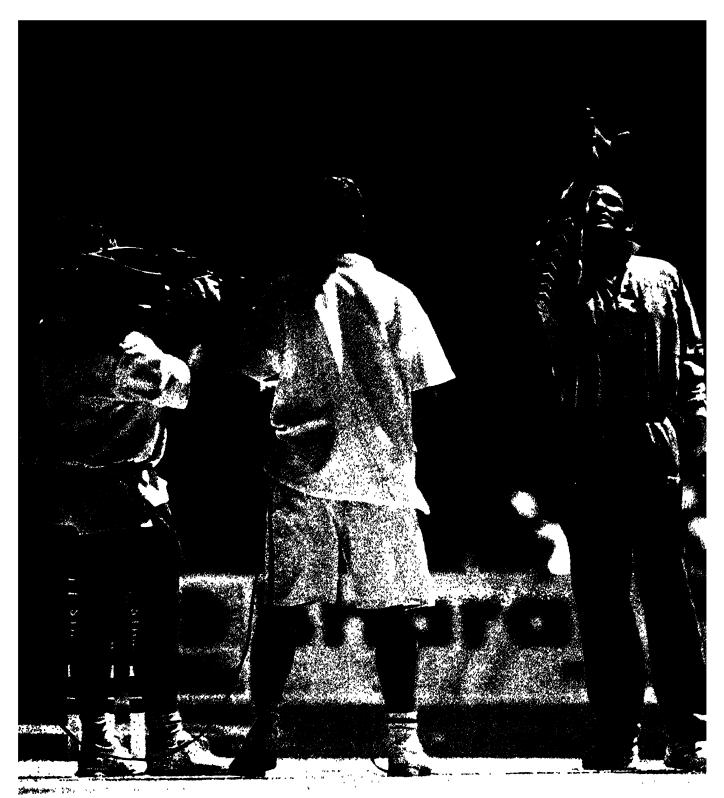
A Pakistani woman with her country's flag during the India-Pakistan World Cup quarter final at Bangalore

grounds --- like Colombo, Toronto or Sharjah.

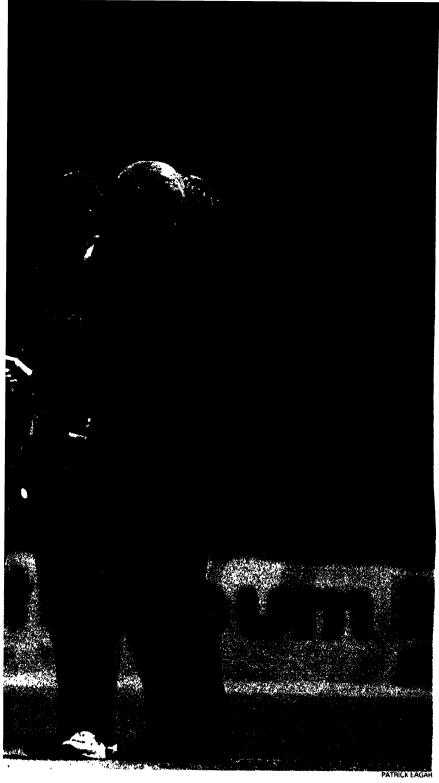
Oh, no, not Sharjah. Sharjah had once been one of India's greatest cricketing misadventures, simply because Sharjah, for all practical purposes, is a microcosm of the subcontinent's communal divide. A better option would definitely be Colombo or faraway Toronto.

But then who plays cricket in Foronto? Someone might argue that precisely because there are not many cricket players in places-like Toronto, cricket should be exported there, exploiting the glamour of the game's greatest stars. Cricket needs to expand to become a truly global game. Agreed. But before being a global game, cricket must bring peace among some of its leading and most traditional exponents. Between England and Pakistan; between India and Pakistan. At the moment, there is a rather fragile truce; if the truce is not extended to a complete peace, then someone has failed the game of cricket itself.

Suprakash Ghoshal is a senior correspondent with the BBC Bengali Service in London



Vhen India plays Pakistan, cricket becomes the surrogate of jingoism and communalism. Isn't it time that things changed?



BY RUDRANGSHU MUKHERJEE

ANY people in Calcutta will remember with shame what happened at Eden Gardens when India lost to Sri Lanka in the semi-finals of the Wills World Cup.

One shudders to think what would have happened if India's opponents that evening had been Pakistan and the result had been the same. The grotesque display of enthusiasm and euphoria which followed India's victory over Pakistan at Bangalore in the same tournament gave an indication of what could have

Asmer Sohail and Md. Azheruddin out in the middle for the toss in the World Cup querter final at Bangalore. Too much jingelsm characterised this match

happened.

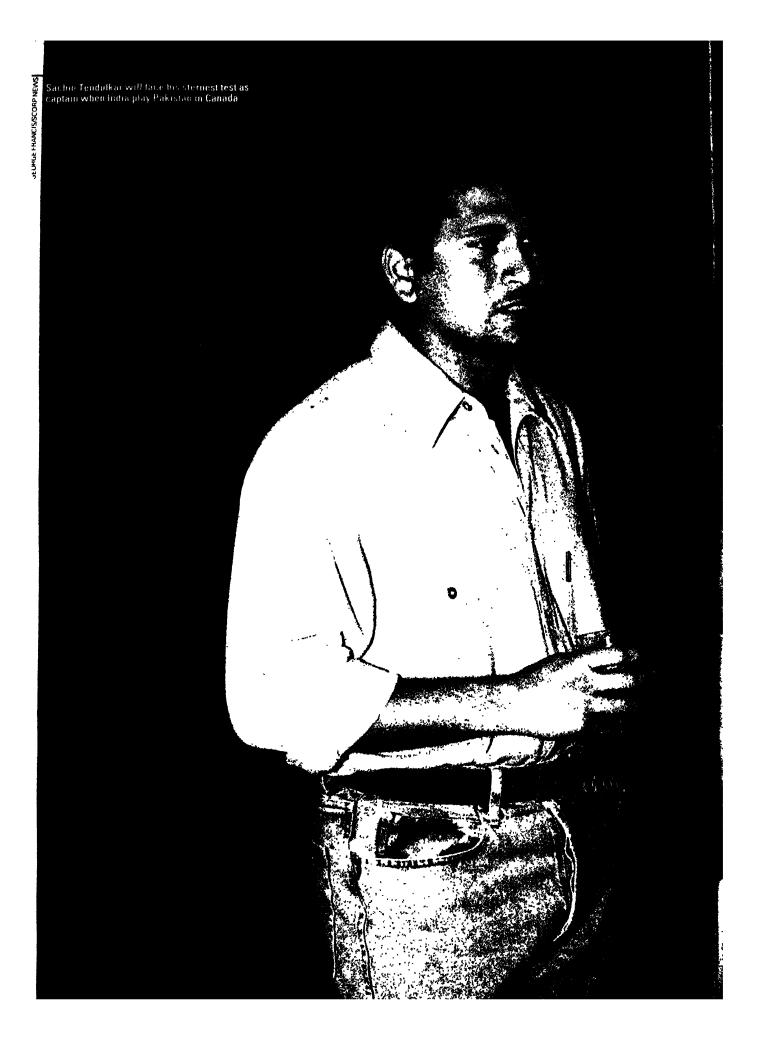
On the night of India's victory, crowds of young men went around the streets, stopping cars to distribute sweets and in hurling abuse at Pakistanis and Muslims. If India had been playing Pakistan in the semi-finals and had lost in the miserable fashion it did to Sri Lanka. the city would have witnessed the flip side of the euphoria. There would have been generalised hatred directed at one community. Cricket stops being a mere game when India plays Pakistan in cricket. It becomes the surrogate of jingoism and communalism.

This is true not only for Indian crowds and Indian cricket lovers. The same phenomenon is seen in the cities of Pakistan. Even when India and Pakistan meet in Sharjah, the cricket ground becomes a simulated battlefield. There must be some explanation for this kind of behaviour but the net victim of these attitudes is the game of cricket.

This kind of blind partisanship creates an unhealthy pressure on the players on and off the field. It is a commonly accepted assumption that India never does well against Pakistan in Sharjah because the overwhelming support at that venue is for Pakistan. The nature of the crowd is thus made to stand in for the merit or otherwise of a team.

A cricketer at the international level is supposed to try and play at his best at every encounter. This is how he makes his reputation and also his living. The playing field is not a testing ground for his patriotism. But very often, especially when India is playing Pakistan, this is precisely what happens. If a player does badly against Pakistan, his bona fides as an Indian is brought under suspicion and woe betide him if he happens to be a Muslim. That there is something grossly unfair in such allegations goes without saying.

It is this ambience of suspicion, totally alien to the spirit of cricket or,



MOINUDDIN RAMID

Wasim Akram: an immensely confident captain who leads from the front. Pakistan must be raring to go against India after their thumping series win against England

for that matter, any other sport, which has resulted in some people making the suggestion that India should stop playing Pakistan for some time. There is too much of a risk involved, the argument runs. If a cricket match has the potentiality of provoking a communal disturbance then it is best to avoid such a match.

Another more notorious assertion has come from the Shiv Sena's leader Bal Thackeray. He said he would not allow any Pakistani team to play on Indian soil. This, of course, was something of an empty boast. The Wills World Cup encounter between the two countries at Bangalore called Thackeray's bluff. Bal Thackeray and his horde have very little muscle power outside the city of Mumbai and parts of Maharashtra, so they are in no position to stop a match in Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and so on.

But what Mr Thackeray's statement does is to put Pakistani players in India under pressure because despite the best security arrangements they would be somewhat uneasy under Thackeray's threat. The suggestion that India and Pakistan should stop playing each other seems to have been implicitly accepted by the two boards, albeit, in a modified form. It is clear that the two boards are avoiding Indo-Pak Test matches or one day internationals in India and Pakistan. They are playing on what is best described as neutral territory like Canada.

In many ways this is a cop out: the convenient easy way out. It is a decision which has nothing to do with cricket and cricketers. Cricketers have shown that their simulated hostility on the cricket field notwithstanding, they can be the best of friends. During the Wills World Cup when some teams refused to play in Sri Lanka, the Indian and the Pakistani cricketers did not hesitate to take a combined team to Sri Lanka and leading Pakistani players had no problems in playing under the captaincy of Azharuddin.



There could be no better gesture of goodwill and friendship and the cricketers showed their attitudes in the best way they can by getting on with the game.

It is one of the features of modern day cricket that too many decisions about the game are taken with an eye to matters which have nothing to do with the game. At times, it is money via sponsorships, at times, it is politics or crowd behaviour. While it is nobody's argument that cricket can or should remain insulated from what is happening in the wider world of politics and economics, decision makers have to make up their minds about what is more important: the game or other things?

In the matter of holding of Indo-Pak Test matches, the two boards have capitulated to politics without the hint of a fight. There are thousands of genuine cricket lovers in both countries who would love to see a properly played out Test series between India and Pakistan. They will also argue that if cricketers are allowed to get on with their game, they will play well and this in turn will satisfy the crowds. But this voice is not even given a hearing in the clamour of communal, partisan and political pronouncements.

It will be dishonest to deny that the media has no role in all this. The hype which the media builds up whenever India plays Pakistan only adds to the tension and the charged atmosphere. They contribute to transforming cricketers into gladiators.

When India plays Pakistan, the media takes away the cricketers' right to fail. A batsman is never out to a good ball but always deliberately throws away his wicket because he has things other than cricket on his mind. India and Pakistan should continue to play each other in the sub continent. And the media should play an educative role to restore to cricket its pristine character in which political considerations are of marginal consequence.

The author is Editor, the Editorial pages of the *The Telegraph*)

IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT

Shyam Sundar Gupta is a personality in his own right. He is also the marriage registrar who presided over SAURAV GANGULY'S secret wedding to his lady love DONA ROY. This is his story of that fateful night

T was on the ninth of August, when things started slowly taking shape. I was present in my chamber going through various marriage documents when a friend of mine, Tarun Banerjee (who is also an advocate) contacted me. I treated this as just another social call from him. In fact, nothing unusual passed my mind when he asked me, 'Shyam Sundar, will you be there for sometime?' I said yes, and then enquired why. Mr. Banerjee hesitated for a moment before replying, 'Okay, I'll call you back.' He hung up, but didn't call back that night.

On the morning of the tenth, Mr. Banerjee called me up once again and asked me if I was going to be in my office that evening. I said yes, and again out of curiosity I tried to enquire what the problem was. To which he replied, 'Don't worry, I will tell you when I see you'. Once again, Mr. Banerjee did not turn up that evening.

On the morning of the eleventh, Mr. Banerjee called me up once again and asked me to be in my chamber between six and nine in the evening. He said that he was definitely going to pay me a visit. Though somewhat puzzled by his abstract behaviour, I nevertheless agreed. That evening, I waited for him till 9 o'clock but he did not turn up yet again. Getting a trifle impatient, I decided that it would be best to call up his residence. Mr. Banerjee was not there, neither was he at his chamber. Giving up the whole thing as a bad joke, I retired for the day.

Mr. Banerjee obviously had other plans because he called me up promptly the next morning and apologised for his non appearance the previous evening. After some small talk, he, once again requested me to stay in my chamber that evening. By this time, my level



A young Dona Roy with an award she won for her dancing. She is an accomplished Odissi dancer

of patience was running out. So I asked him once again what the matter was, and why he was behaving so strangely...

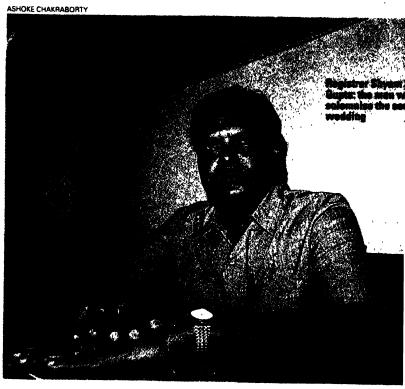
...Unable to evade my persistent questioning for much longer, Mr. Banerjee gave in and whispered (though not before swearing me to secrecy) saying, 'Don't tell anyone, but Saurav is getting married'. Saurav?

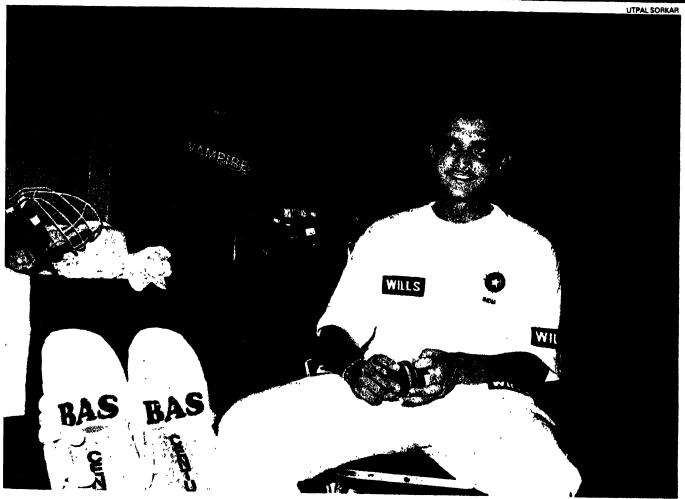
Mr. Banerjee elaborated further saying that it was Indian cricketer Saurav Ganguly.

On hearing this news, I became a little more curious and somewhat cautious too. Mr. Banerjee, however, continued to lay out his plans. He told me once more that he would be coming to my chamber that night but on the condition that no one, apart from me should be present. He also specified that he would like to meet me in my inner chamber, a place where I normally meet clients who prefer a certain amount of privacy.

Mr. Banerjee informed me that he would be in my chamber at the very latest by seven in the evening. Fully aware of his priority for punctuality, I, however, decided to give him some more time. True enough, he turned up at 8.45 p.m. By the look of things, it appeared that Mr. Banerjee had not come alone. There was a white Contessa parked just outside my chamber and through the tinted glass it did

Saurav Ganguly: no longer single





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The marriage certificate of Sourav and Dona Ganguly: no longer just a rumour

look as if the car had some occupants in it. On peering a little more closely, I managed to identify one of the occupants in the car. The door of the car then opened and former Bengal cricketer Malay Banerjee came out and walked right into my chamber.

"Mr. Gupta," he started on entering my chamber, "I would be grateful if you could do

me a favour. He (Saurav) does not want to come into your chamber for fear that he may be recognised. He wants that we should go to a private place so that people will not bother him and intrude upon the occasion. He wants it to be a 'secret'."

Most people in the area had no idea that it was Saurav Ganguly who was in the car. But Saurav did not want to take any chances. In any case, going by the surreptitious movements of the people who had come with him it would not have been too long before the residents of the area got suspicious. So after gauging that the entire task had to be carried out in secret, I asked them to get in their car and carry on while I followed them in my own car.

We stopped at a house in Raja Basanta Roy Road in the South Calcutta area. I cannot recall the number of the premises but I think that it is mentioned in the marriage certificate. I went into the house along with my assistant Miss Kaberi Majhi. Once we were inside, we were asked to sit down. A table was then brought out and the witnesses and couple started signing their names on the marriage certificate.

After the forms were duly signed, we examined them and my assistant made the couple recite the marriage vows. At this point, the couple are made to place one hand upon each other's and say the following: 'I Saurav Ganguly, son of Chandi Ganguly, accept Dona Ganguly daughter of Sanjib Roy to be my legally wedded wife'. The bride must then do the same.

After the registration formalities were completed Saurav insisted on paying me my fees. I refused to accept it, telling him that 'Mr. Ganguly, you have done the country proud, I cannot take any money from you'. Saurav, however, continued to insist but I said 'No'.

Soon after that somebody went out to fetch some sweets. After the sweets were distributed Dona and Saurav touched everybody's feet for their blessings. At that point of time, I did get the feeling that Saurav was highly nervous. Sure enough, he took me aside after some time and requested me to keep the whole matter a secret. I agreed to this but I was quite surprised at the way he kept repeating his request every now and then.

By this time, it was getting quite late. I decided that the time had come to leave. Little did I know that this marriage would not be a secret for very long.

How did the news leak out?

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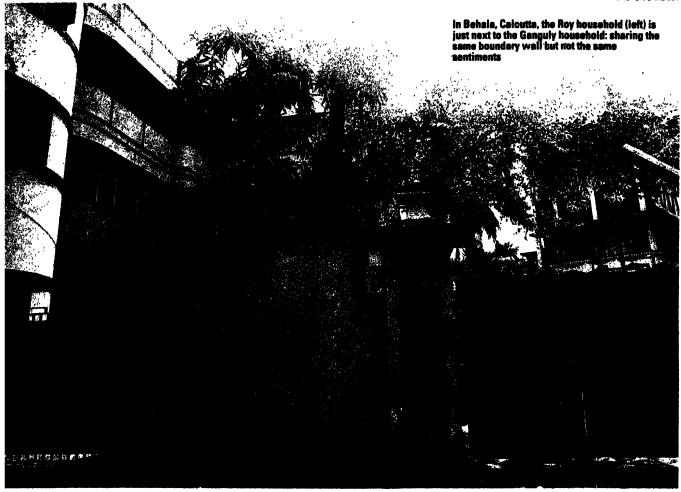
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CHOTON GANGULY



It's quite simple, really. The marriage registration forms are prepared in triplicate. One of these copies goes to the office of the Registrar General in Writers Building. Saurav Ganguly's name being quite familiar, it must have given rise to some sort of suspicion for the clerk who has handling the document. Not only that, his father's name, which is quite familiar in the city was also mentioned on the form. The news must have leaked out from there. In fact, the officials had asked me to confirm if it was the very same Saurav Ganguly, but I pleaded ignorance.

Coming back to that fateful night, I couldn't help but notice one that Dona (Saurav's wife) was very happy. Saurav, on the other hand, seemed terribly scared of what he had done and the effect that it would have on his family, specially his father. Mr. Banerjee the advocate had reiterated that Saurav's family did not want him to marry Dona. He attributed the reason to a traditional enmity between the two families, both of whom are in the printing press business. Hence the secrecy.

It was obvious that Saurav had spent a lot of time in trying to make his plan a foolproof one. He had decided to marry Dona just a day or two before leaving for Colombo in the hope that if at all the news leaked out he would not be in Calcutta and moreover, it would die down after he came back.

I do not know if what Saurav did was right or wrong and neither would I like to comment. But the fact is that such things are very difficult to hide. They come out in the open sooner or later, specially in the case of celebrities. Moreover, I wonder if Saurav and Dona realised one thing: that being adults, they qualified by law to be their fown guardians'. Maybe they were too scared of the problems and embarrassment their decision to marry secretly would create. After all, inspite of being such a famous personality, when it comes down to parental approval, children can never grow up and neither can they be too mature.

I wish Saurav and Dona the very best."
As told to Robin Chatterjee

Perfect Selection

TIRST of all, I would like to congratulate Sachin Tendulkar for being appointed as the skipper of the Indian cricket team. Though his selection has come a bit late, it makes him the youngest Indian skipper to lead a one-day team. My congratulations also to Anil Kumble, the newly-appointed vice-captain.

On the team selection, the best decision was the exclusion of Sanjay Manjrekar. He was most irritating as a player in both the one-dayers and Test matches. The inclusion of Vinod Kambli and David Johnson is a welcome



step. It has certainly come at the right time. I think Sidhu would have been a better choice in place of Azhar, who, of late, has been showing no interest in playing. It's time he concentrates on

getting back his form.

Lastly, I wish Sachin and his team, the very best for the coming tours.

RAJNISH AGARWAL,

Vizaa.

Dismal

THE performance of the Indian squad at the Atlanta Games has been outrageously dismal. It's a shame that a country gifted with enormous talent and manpower has failed to produce world class athletes.

The Indian hockey team ended up securing the eighth place, after losing to mediocre teams like Argentina. This has been the worst performance exhibited by the Indian hockey team at the Olympics.

Of course, no praise is sufficient enough for Leander Paes; he managed to salvage some pride for his motherland by winning the bronze medal. I hope this victory will help him improve his ATP ranking. But a question remains unanswered: "Is a single bronze enough to satisfy the hunger of 90 crore people?"

DR A.K. DAS, Patna

Crisis

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Role of Print Media

WE do agree with your viewpoint that with the largescale commercialisation of sports, athletes have sought victory at all costs. In the process, they have affected their health, by trying to go beyond the limits of human resistance. But the Fourth Estate's role in this regard cannot be written off.

The print media projects these individuals as demi-gods and the electronic media world-wide testifies the formers' views. The juicy 'n spicy stories about these sportspersons we often get to read are usually tinged with the writer's imagination and have no basis in facts. I believe this can be lessened if we all accept these sportspersons as human beings and treat them so.

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack.

Waqar Younis could well be the most effective fast bowler in world cricket 20

WAQARED'!

It is the current phrase in the lexicon of world cricket. It is also proof that Waqar Younis is taking a heavy toll on the batsmen

BY ROBIN CHATTERJEE

MAGINF that you are an established Test batsman. Now picture a cricket ball coming at you at a speed in excess of 80 miles per hour. The ball has been pitched just outside the off stump and your traditional batsman's senses have told you to leave the ball, even while it is in the air. You have thought about all this in a matter of seconds and your judgement is sound. Your conscience is ready to face the next delivery even while the ball is hurtling through the air.

Is your conscience really ready? Too late!

The cricket ball which, till a fraction of a second ago, was ready to whiz past seems to have a mind all of its own. Through those valuable seconds, it has suddenly decided to change its trajectory, like a heat seeking missile. It has abandoned all plans of hitting the dirt and then moving on to the hands of the wicketkeeper. It has sought out your toes and it has been briefed to crush it. Through the aid of the reverse swing.

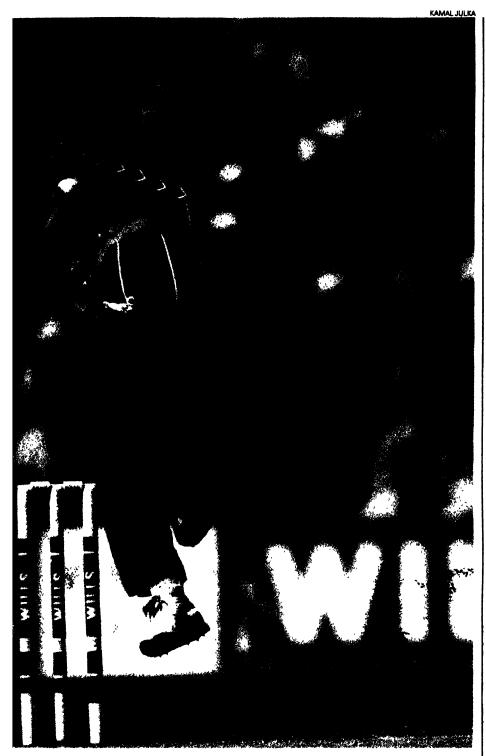
The ball's mission has now been accomplished. You can now picture yourself (the accomplished batsman that you are) doing two things: (a) you are either shaking your head as your stumps lie shattered and you are making your way to the pavilion or

(b) you are moaning about in the pitch holding your toes, which have probably just been crushed in unbelievable agony. In your lighter moments, you might just spare the time and try and diagnose this phenomenon that you had fallen victim to.

Relax (if you can through the pain). You have just been 'Waqared'. And yes, it is scary.

A lot of theories have been floated by the critics and by those who have had their powers of judgement belittled by Waqar Younis' lethal yorker. Those close to the game have





theorised that it is perhaps the most lethal delivery, outside of Shane Warne's flipper, and then again the flipper has been designed to cause only mental damage. Younis' inswinging yorker has been constructed to affect both the mind and the body. Sir Garfield Sobers 22 believes that the ideal answer to this delivery would be to take guard outside the crease in order to intercept the ball before it deviates. The English team, on the other hand, are trying to kill it by playing it with 'soft' hands, while invoking their favourite saint.

A Waqar Younis fast fact: he takes a

Bombs away! Younis on the verge of hurling one of his thunderhelts

wicket every 38 balls. Secondly, what is the secret of his success? Nasim-ul-Ghani, the Pakistani tour coach, has shortlisted three key areas that they have to work in total harmony, if Younis is to perform at his best. Younis' advantage lies in his bowling action. It is raw and ugly. And then there is his immense strength and the willingness to train for long hours. But for some time, it was this very bowling action that contributed to Wagar having a chronic back problem. Lesser bowlers would have given up the fight and their careers but Younis decided to stick it out at the treatment table.

The results of this perseverance showed soon after when, after pushing his body to previously uncharted limits, Younis scalped eight batsmen in the first Test against England at Lord's, thereby inflicting upon them a 164 run defeat. As a bonus, seven of his eight victims were either bowled or leg before, thanks to the inswinging yorker.

Just out of sheer ignorance: what on earth is an inswinging yorker? Well, Waqar Younis would tell you that firstly, the ball needs to be held correctly. Then again, to obtain the late swing which renders most batsmen immobile, the ball has to be delivered fast and at yorker length. Lastly, nobody does it better than Waqar.

Technicalities are something that must be adhered to and so a closer examination is deemed necessary. Younis' slightly round-arm action ensures that the ball is released in a lower flatter trajectory, though it stays in the air longer thus giving it an opportunity to indulge in a late swing. At the start of the delivery stride, both of Waqar's feet are parallel to the crease, thereby putting him into a classical side-on position. But in the instant before his left foot lands, it straightens, making his upper body swivel, while at the same time he drags his right foot which results in the generation of extra speed. The ball



is then released mostly by the means of a wrist action.

Through all this examination comes one pertinent question. Does Younis have a copyright for this particular delivery? Not so. Wagar Younis did not invent the inswinging yorker. He, however, made it into an art form. Most fast bowlers from the sub-continent use the yorker as their staple diet thanks to the hard, lifeless pitches available there. Most bowlers from India, Pakistan and, to an extent, Sri Lanka abandon trying to swing the ball too much, preferring to bowl with a deteriorating ball by applying sweat and spit to one side so that it is unevenly balanced.

To the naked eye, the delivery represents a kind of reverse swing. In truth, it is exactly the opposite. The reverse movement is caused by the downward drag thanks to the extra weight on one side of the ball. It is a phenomenon which Waqar Younis has refined. Consider this: to be able to get just the right amount of swing means that one has to deliver the ball with just the right amount of science in mind. A slower delivery would make the ball drop down like a dead weight. An extra fast ball would only start to swing after it has gone past the batsman. Wagar Younis, in this case has found the right balance.

The purists in the game are finding Younis' delivery to be a bit of a pain (no pun intended). They claim that it could be the result of unfair means. For example, the tampering of the ball by means of a nail job to deteriorate the leather. Waqar Younis has defended himself by claiming that he can even make an unpeeled orange get a reverse swing. More than that, nothing has been proved in Waqar's case.

In any case, you need more than just a scientific frame of mind in order to face Waqar Younis today. You need to have tons of a particular quality the utterance of which is music to Waqar's ears...

...Balls!



GO FOR IT, GULLIT!

RUUD GULLIT is the manager of Chelsea. He hopes that his charisma and discipline will help his club do well in the Premier League

HERE has always been something charismatic about Ruud Gullit. On the playing field, with his long Ràstafarian locks flowing, his sudden bursts of acceleration, the incredible dribbling skills and then that sunny smile that burst on his face when he scored a goal. The TV cameras caught every emotion down to a perfect nicety. Ruud Gullit was a man who was enjoying the moment. He loved the game of football; he loved life. He was having a ball. For spectators, it was a thrill to watch him play.

Today, Ruud Gullit is 33 years old. His footballing days are behind him. A persistent knee problem has put paid to a long career in the game. So now he has moved off to becoming a manager. He is Chelsea's boss now. The club hopes that, with his charisma and tactics, he will be able to transform the club into a champion side once again. Although, in rather racist England, he will be having a bit of a problem, since he is a black.

As he explains succintly, "I am aware I'm black and that I stand out. I use it to my advantage. If you feel attacked by your difference, then you have the problem. You have to view it positively. It's the same with a very intelligent child. No one wants to be with him because he knows everything already. So he has to prove

Rued Gullit in action for Choisea before recurring knee problems forced him to quit

himself in a different way."

Gullit has proved himself time and again on the international stage. There is no doubt that he was one of the most gifted footballers that Holland has produced. Although he had to work extra hard to counter the racism. This habit of working extra hard was taught by his father.

"My father studied economics for eight years in the evenings," he reminisces, "and worked during the day to train to be a teacher. He was having to work harder than everyone else because he was black. It was a challenge for him. I think the same way as my father."

He needed his father's never-say-die attitude when he moved off to Italy to play in the league there. He found that the spectre of racism existed there also. But he was unfazed by it. As he explained, "In Italy, when the crowds were shouting abuse, I took it as a compliment because it showed that they were afraid of me. It made me feel good about myself that they should be scared. It made me feel good about myself that they should be scared. It made me play even better."

Gullit is hoping to make his wards play positive football at Chelsea. They are slowly getting used to his idea of discipline. In England, the players are not as disciplined as the players on the Continent. Gullit says, "In Italy, if you are playing on a Saturday, then, after a Wednesday game, you go home and

prepare for the weekend. Here, in England, I have noticed that they go out for a few drinks. That's not very good. I allow my players to drink a beer with their food. You have to know your limit. You work harder if you eat and drink the right things." Then he shakes his head from side to side and exclaims, "The Italians wouldn't believe it if they see how the players behave during the day of the match here. They talk about tickets and use their mobile phones."

To toughen his players physically, he's hired former Olympic 200m finalist Ade Mafe to help improve speed over short distances and to develop stamina and upper body strength. The idea is to improve overall fitness and reduce the chance of making mistakes through sheer fatigue. Although he says, "I don't want to change a lot of things. I just want the players to do the best for them, so that they can play the best they can."

Chelsea should be happy that they have appointed Ruud Gullit as manager. One immediate offshoot has been that there's been a 60% increase in season ticket sales. That has brought in an income of 3 million pounds for the club. Although the club had to spend quite a bit of money to get quality players like Gianluca Vialli, Di Matteo and Lebouef.

Ruud Gullit justifies the expenditure: "You can't think about the cost of a good player or, for that



PHOTOGRAPHS COLORSPORT

matter, a suit when it's cut. It's the impression it makes that counts."

Although he feels that in today's terribly fast paced game, it's not enough to have just a few quality players. "Nowadays," he says, "it's almost impossible to play with 11 people because the game is stronger and faster. You need 20 players. I would like two players for every position at the same standard of good quality....you can't finish a season with 12 good players."

What's the hardest aspect of coaching, I ask?

"How to cope with losing a game," he says with a smile. Of course, Gullit could look at the video of the England-Germany semi final at the European Championships and see Terry Venables' face when his team lost in the penalty shoot-out. Perhaps that's the way to behave when a team loses.

Gullit smiles when I tell him this. He's an utterly charming man. It also seems, he's quite irresistible to women. That's clear from the fact that he's had two ex-wives and a string of very beautiful girlfriends. Gullit is hoping that this charisma would translate into some brilliant performances from his players on the field. Success as a manager could ensure another long career in the sport that he loves, although it will be not on the playing field but somewhere close to that: the sidelines William Rhodes

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

THEE, SAMASSAR THEM S CHECKET CODE ATTHER M.R. WISENTANKY CHELISHER SERVALL CHELISHER ATTHEMS - MILE BY ATTHEMSOLVEY

HIS racy book written with remarkable candour and insight, portrays Sunil Gavaskar the cricketer, his brilliant application and run-amassing feats plus a vivid portrayal of his turbulent career and fluctuating moods. Former skipper Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi in his Foreword comments on the unfortunate trend amongst Indian fans to make heroes out of mere mortals. Many books on superstars like Gavaskar are mere eulogies.

The wily Wadhwaney resists such an easy venture. The author achieves an interesting balance between fact and comment. He praises Gavaskar's batting, determination to succeed and ability as a commentator. However Wadhwaney also aptly highlights the pitfalls which occur when a sportsperson is elevated to such a high level by an adoring media and fans. He reveals that Gavaskar the man was often full of contradictions and often succumbed to pressures. This adds to the delight and charm of this book.

Besides the Foreword and the Preface, the book has twenty-three well researched and well documented chapters. Gavaskar's cricket career is traced chronologically. The glorious beginning in the 1971 tour to the Caribbean Isles when he amassed

774 runs in four Tests with a mind boggling average of 154.80,the clinical 2-0 win over Pakistan in 1979-80 which Gavaskar masterminded as skipper and the ace batsman scoring 529 runs in the series, to his centuries Down Under in the 1977-78 and 1985-86 tours and his 100th Test catch are all well chronicled.



The book is embellished with statistics of Gavaskar's averages and his accumulative record after each series. Wadhwaney makes a frank appraisal of most of Gavaskar's knocks, evaluating their intrinsic worth to the side.

However, what makes the book compelling reading are the insights about all the Gavaskar controversies.

The pique of the 'Little Master' when he had Kapil Dev dropped for a rash shot at the 1984 Delhi Test when India lost to England, his sensitivity to criticism and boorish behaviour in a Duleep Trophy match in which West Zone was outclassed by South Zone and batting left handed when Bombay lost to Karnataka are all aptly described. It shows that even Gayaskar succumbed to pressure.

Wadhwaney has shown that Gavaskar had strong likes and dislikes. He refused to use the telephone at the Kotla ground during Test matches because of his dislike of the Delhi officialdom. The author also comments on Gavaskar's journalistic forays especially the insinuations that P.T. Usha went to the 1988 Seoul Olympics even though she was injured.

The author shows that as skipper Gavaskar was often curt with Indian journalists and asked them to check their facts before writing about him. However, as a columnist, he often committed similar errors. The author mentions that when Gavaskar wrote about an "Uncle Journalist Who Made Advances at Him-" he should have disclosed the identity rather than creating a mere scandal. On several other contentious issues, like distribution of money according to seniority at the Varanasi exhibition match and disputes with Kapil Dev are well presented.

Overall, an interesting book which reveals several lesser known and less pleasant aspects of Gavaskar's personality.

Novy Kapadia

A FAIRY TALE

Auxerre, a nondescript French club did the unthinkable: they won the French Cup and the National League title this year

UXERRE: A small town with a football club in the Burgundy district of France achieved a unique 'double'.

In the 1995-96 season, unfancied Auxerre with an average spectator turnout of 9,000 from a population of just 37,000, annexed the French Cup and their National League title. Across the Channel, Manchester United annexed the Premier League honours and the F.A Cup in England. However

Laurent Blanc of Auxerre and France scored the winning penalty in the shootout against Holland in the Euro '95 championships in terms of sheer achievement, Auxerre's triumph is as great if not greater than Manchester United's feat. Mighty Manchester United, the club of the late Sir Matt Busby, Bobby Charlton, George Best, Denis Law, Bryan Robson and several other stalwarts, had won several League titles and FA Cups in the past. They had even done the 'double' in 1984 season.

Auxerre was a non-League club, in the 1960s. In 1961, when current manager Guy Roux took charge of Auxerre they had just one tiny stand and the players' post-match washing facilities consisted of a water pump. From obsurity to French League champions and European glory in just about three decades is a fairy tale like feat quite mind-boggling to behold.

Auxerre's rise to fame and their unique 'double' is primarily because of the vision and foresight of their veteran coach Guy/Roux. In these days of conspicuous consumerism and shifting loyalties, Roux is an anachronism, a one club-man with values and loyalties of an age gone by. By his astute coaching, brilliant youth policy and shrewd motivational skills, Roux has transformed Auxerre and brought them on the football map of Europe.



OBSPORT

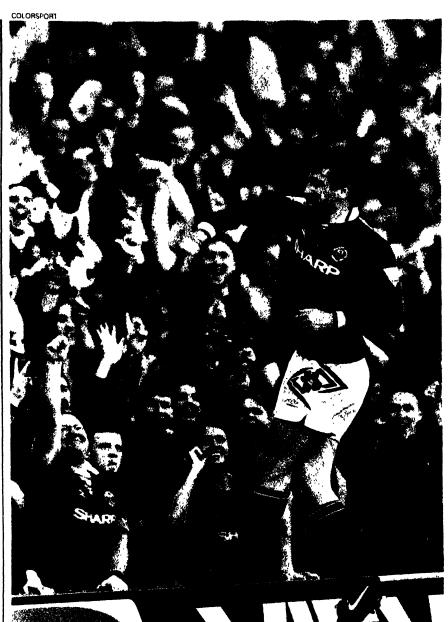
Roux's youth policy is the envy of France.

Realising that a club with a small budget could never buy success, Roux concentrated on meticulous development of talent. He and Auxerre has nurtured and produced international players of the calibre of Eric Cantona, Basile Boli (sturdy black defender who starred in France's Euro 84 triumph and progress to the semi-finals of the 1982 World Cup), Alain Roche (international stopper in the 1990s) and goalkeeper Joel Bats. In the last three decades, there were numerous stalwarts who have benefitted from Roux's guidance. A shrewd judge of

human nature, he knows how to motivate players. He is a much experienced handler of complex personalities and even the former French skipper the volatile Eric Cantona, was not much of a problem child with Roux.

Widely admired by both players and officials, for his unassuming behaviour, Roux received spontaneous praise for his memorable feat. The coach of European Cup Winners' Cup champions, Paris St. Germain, Luis Fernandes said, "I'm delighted for him. He's been waiting for this for such a long time and he really descrives it." His enduring motto is "Work and work and work." Due to his strong work ethic, he is never perturbed by loss of players due to transfers.

Three of the 1995-96 double winning squad, defender Laurent Blanc and midfielders Sabir Lamouchi and Correntin Martins, were in France's Euro '96 squad which reached the semi-finals. The trio played consistently well the whole season and inevitably were snapped up by richer European clubs. Blanchas departed for Barcelona now being coached by former England manager Bobby Robson. Correntin Martins (French Player-of- theyear) has joined another Spanish club Deportiva La Courna. Lamouchi, who impressed with his flair, technique and versatility has several lucrative offers and is set to move. An exodus of top players is expected but Roux remains phlegmatic and unperturbed. He is confident of his youth policy and



Eric Cantona, now with Manchester United, was nurtured by Auxurre club coach Guy Roux

careful cultivation of young talent. Roux hopes, that as in the past, his youth policy will throw up new talent, to enable Auxerre excel in their debut appearance in the European Champions I cague.

Commenting on Auxerre's unique double in 1995-96, Roux telt sheer consistency and rare committment enabled them to succeed. They won the Cup final beating Nines by a solitary goal and were more consistent than Paris St. Germain and Meltz in the League. An appreciative town council supports Auxerre F.C. to the hilt. The

local population fanatically support their successul club. Everyone gets in the mood for big games with shop fronts carrying the club crest, messages emblazoned on windows and flags i lying all across town.

In an age of lucrative TV sponsorship (due to satellite TV), excessive commercialisation and monopoly of the big clubs, Auxerre's triumph is a confidence booster to small clubs. Auxerre and Guy Roux had the temerity to prove that even as one of football's smaller clubs they can successfully challenge the big clubs and withstand the pressure of their megabucks.

Novy Kapadia



ALENTED and speedy 22-year-old Jordi Cruyff wants to prove that he is an international footballer in his own right. At this year's European Championships, he insisted that journalists do not refer to him as the son of the legendary Johan Cruyff. "Comparisons are odious," said a passionate Jordi. He even insisted that | months after his father's Spanish

only his Christian name appear on the team sheet. Jordi wishes to avoid all comparisons with his superdad, Johan who arguably along with Pele, Maradona, Puskas, Di Stefano and Beckenbauer qualifies as one of the greatest players of all time.

Jordi was born in Amstercamon on February 9, 1974 less than four

League debut for Barcelona. His career was launched under the protection of his father. His career was carefully choreographed by Johan who did not want to expose him to senior football and all the accompanying tensions too soon.

As a teenager, the precocious Jordi upset teammates and officials by his superior airs and snobbish behaviour.

COLORSPORT

Jordi Cruyff in action against Germany during the European Championships in London

Incessant bickerings on the field earned him a bad reputation and a host of yellow cards. The development of match temperament seemed essential for the young Jordi. It was on the advice of his father that he was able to curb this negative,

PARISONS,

JORDI CRUYFF is an above average footballer. He has just one problem: his father

quarrelsome aspect of his game.

He scored 21 goals in 20 matches and was promoted to Barcelona B in 1992. He made his team debut on March 30, 1993 in a Catalan tournament but had to wait another year for his maidan appearance in the league. Jordi, who can function on both the flanks has many uncanny resemblances with his father. There is the same devastating speed, the sudden acceleration, with the drop of a shoulder, the quick thinking on the field and the wiry frame.

In fact at one stage of his career, he was so thin that sports doctors put him on special diet, to develop his muscles. For Barcelona, Jordi excelled with his sudden change of pace and skills on the left flank. The only difference is that unlike his legendary father, Jordi lacks the goal-scoring instinct.

Success at Barcelona meant that he received offers from the country of his birth, Holland and from the country where he earned a living to launch an international career. He finally opted for Holland and played in all their four matches in Euro '96. Jordi watched by an admiring father, scored his first international goal at Villa Park, on June 13, 1996 in the 3-0 triumph over Switzerland. Even though Holland underachieved at Euro '96, Jordi made a favourable impression by his speed and thrust on both the flanks.

After his father's departure from Barcelona, Jordi also decided to quit Nou Camp stadium, the house of the Barcelona club. The new Barcelona coach Bobby Robson wanted Jordi to continue. But Jordi, who seems to follow the dictates of Frank Sinatra's song "I did it my way" quit Barcelona and opted for Manchester United. Alex Ferguson wants to strengthen his squad to make a

successful bid for the coveted European Champions League in which English clubs have fared dismally in the Nineties and the inclusion of Jordi into his squad will only improve his chances. His current squad has three of the most exciting



Johan Cruyff hopes his son can curb his temperamental 'excesses' on the field

young players in the world, Jordi Cruyff, Karel Poborsky and the Welsh boy wonder Ryan Giggs.

Whether Jordi can survive the tough demands of English football and their very demanding fans is something that remains to be seen. Novy Kapadia

KAREL POBORSKY is on his way to becoming a football superstar

EXPRESS TRAIN



ONG-HAIRED, talented and speedy Karel Poborsky was the find of the 1996
European Championships in England. Before the Euro '96 commenced, he was just a midfield option for the pragmatic national coach Desan Uhrin. A year ago, he was picked just for an international match, a Euro qualifying tie versus Finland. Till Euro '96, he had not scored an international goal.

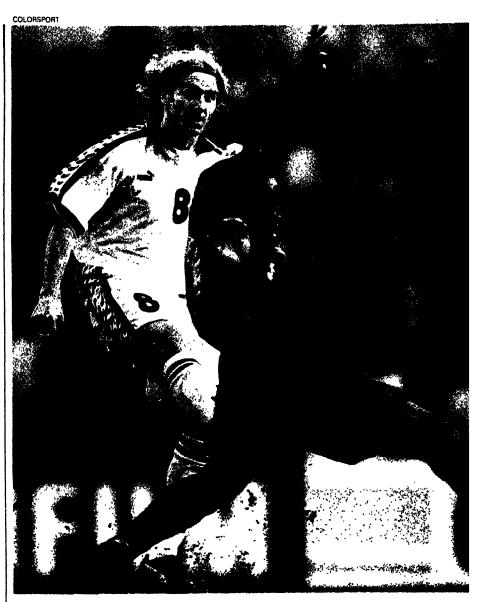
However, his match-winner against Portugal in the quarterfinals was sublime. Poborsky dribbled through some slack Portuguese defending and after a lucky ricochet, executed a sublime goal chip-cum-scoop over the stunned Portuguese goalkeeper Victor Baia. After this sensational match-winner, Poborsky became the most sought after player in Europe.

Critics are drooling over his ability, talent, speed and exceptional dribbling skills. His superlative dribbling was revealed in the Group C (Group of Death) league encounter with Italy when the stocky Poborsky tormented the world's best defender Paolo Maldini. He set up the match-winner with a deft cross from the right. Another remarkable aspect of his game is his devastating speed. His Czech Republic teammates have nicknamed him the "Express Train".

Poborsky is a manager's dream, both as a utility player and a potential destroyer. Unlike many other talented players, he is not a prima donna and does not expect the ball to be played to his feet. Instead he works tirelessly, linking defence to attack. As a winger, he has the speed and can trouble packed defences with his skills and accurate crosses. He can also function with devastating efficiency in the hole behind the strikers in midfield.

His brilliant display in the European Championships led to many offers. Liverpool and Manchester United of England, Paris St. Germain of France and Internazionale Milan and Roma

Karel Poborsky is a sizzling talent, with superb dribbling skills and a fine tactical awareness



Karel Poborsky made his impact at the Euro '96. Picture shows him in action against Portugal, which the Czechs won by a goal

of Italy, sought his signature. However, Parel Poborsky who played for Slavia Praha (Prague) was initially reluctant to move.

He is a small town boy, content with his family and friends and shuns excessive publicity. Prospects of a better future and a lucrative deal finally tempted him to Manchester United. At Slavia Praha, he earned about \$10,000 a month. At Manchester United, he earns \$10,000 per week. Like many continental players, Poborsky is a great admirer of the tradition of English club football.

He calls the Wembley stadium 'a temple of sport' and so opted for Manchester United. He also hopes to benefit from the coaching skills of Alex Ferguson.

BBC and ITV experts in Euro '96 felt that Poborsky, with his speed and dribbling skills, will be one of the star foreigners in the 1996-97 season. David Pleat, the astute Sheffield Wednesday coach feels that Poborsky's close dribbling has an uncanny resemblance to the legendary George Best, the same sudden acceleration, feints and close control on the touchline, the long hair, the eccentric temperament and total involvement in the game.

Novy Kapadia

Question: Who's the fastest man in the world? Some say it's Donovan Bailey. Others claim it's Michael Johnson. Who would you like to bet on?

SST'1 can help you make the deal of your life. All you need to give me is Rs. 1.75 crore (or \$500,000) and you re going to be in gravy. Here is the deal word has gotten out in the global athletics circuit that for a suitable sum of greenbacks sprinting megastars. Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey are prepared to pit their skills against each other. The theme? Who is the fastest man in the world.

I can hear you thinking (while at the same time questioning my sanity) aloud that if they want to race for the moolah it s okay. Both are sensational athletes so nuff respect. But one thing's for certain, we all know who the fastest man in the world is Donovan Bailey, and he owns the world record of 9.84 seconds

Ahh, but that s where you guys are way off base. Consider this if they do work out the modalities of such a race don't you go putting all your pennies in Bailey's favour. Maybe a small, but important piece of statistic can sway your opinion towards Johnson. Rewind your thoughts to that eventful day in Atlanta when Michael Johnson replete with golden spikes shatters his own world record in the 200 metres. During that race friends, Michael Johnson ran the second 100 metres in 9.20 seconds.

Obscene!

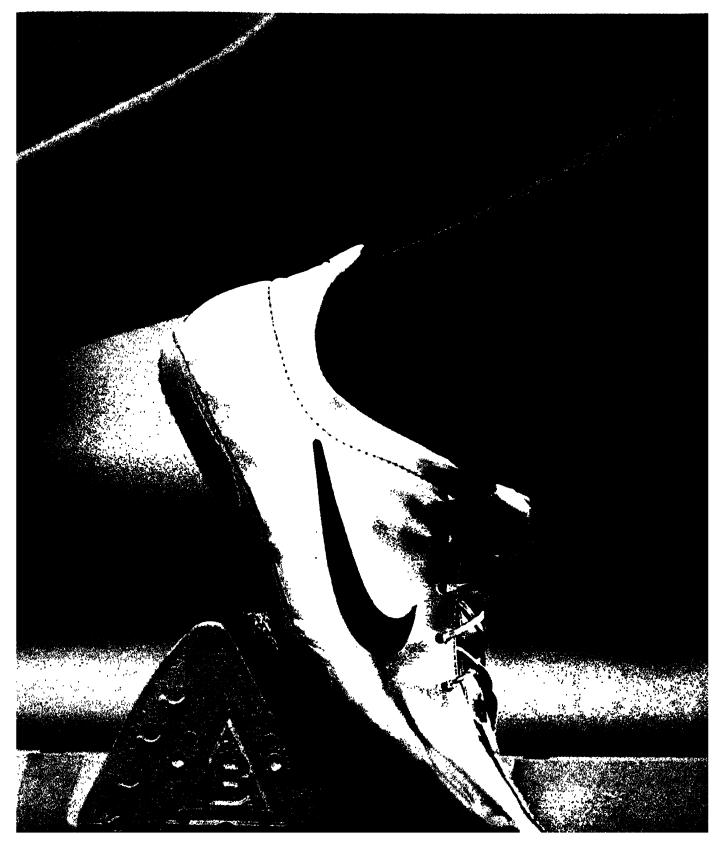
By the way there is confirmation

These are Michael Johnson's running shoes The colour signifies his athletic ambitions. And most people know their size before they try and get into it

RUN FOR



THE MONEY





Michael Johnson exults at Atlanta. The time in the background shows that he has broken his own world record once again

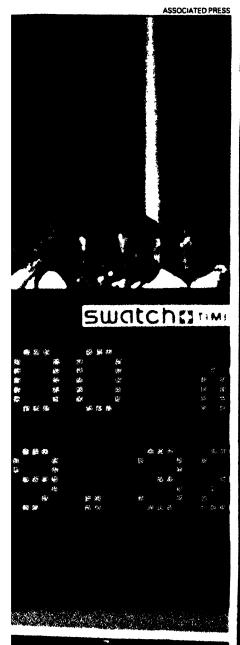
that promoters are madly scrambling about for the money and if perchance they happen to get it, Johnson and Bailey will split the difference and make a race of it over 150 metres. The world record for that distance is 14.8 seconds and it was set by Italian Pietro Mennea, 13 years ago. One thing's for certain that record ain't gonna stand for too long if that day ever dawns. But who's going to break it, is the

question?

High profile athletic meets the world over have a charm which is their own. But the best business for the athletes lie in their agents trying to conjure up the possibility of a head-to-head. It's good for business and is easier to market than trying to sell possible world records. Remember Linford Christie and Carl Lewis racing for 100,000 pounds each at Gateshead, three years ago? It surpassed the 150,000 package deal given for a Mary Decker-Slaney

versus Zola Budd encounter.

And so promoters and the agents of the athletes in question are trying to envisage the best possible package for their clients. There is no guarantee that the race will ever take place, but if it does then it's going to gather a lot of newsprint. Donovan Bailey is quite upset at the fact that some of his fellow athletes are hailing Johnson as the fastest man on earth and not him. As Ato Boldon, the 100m bronze medalist said at Atlanta, "Donovan Bailey might be the world record





holder, but Michael is the fastest human alive."

Experts have even gone on to study the running styles of these two super athletes. "It would be a real clash of styles," said John Rose an exercise psychologist from Arizona State University. ~"When you start a race, it's like you have a 9-volt battery. You have to use that battery wisely.

"Bailey, because he is such a long legged guy, takes longer to unfurl and get into optimal running position, whereas Johnson seems to be able to

Donovan Bailey acknowledges the cheers after his win in the 100m. Does he have the firepower to take on Johnson?

get into his running more quickly and maintain a high cruising rate. As the 100 metres runner, Bailey may have more fast-twitch fibres—but that in itself may not be enough.. Sprinters also need a cardiovascular system that can pump enormous amounts of blood, and thus oxygen, into the legs quickly. Johnson, as a 400 metres runner, would probably have a higher cardiovascular system than Bailey and would therefore win "

So where does Donovan Bailey look for motivation since the elements, right down to Johnson's comical running styles are against him? \$ 500,000 dollars can act as a soothing balm to his bruised ego. And if that great race ever takes place with Bailey turning up as a winner, then all the things that were said against him won't seem so bad after all.

Still, you can't help but wonder...Bailey or Johnson? Anybody got the dough? Robin Chatteriee

LA GAZELLE

French athlete Marie Jose-Perec is famous for making an impression both on and off the track

different at the Olympic
Games in Atlanta. No, we're
not referring to the much
publicised commercialisation of the
Games' ideals, we're not talking about
how the fastest man and woman on
Planet Earth were not given the usual
hype that used to be accorded to them.
Instead, the glare of the spotlight
shifted to the 'double gold' medallists,
Michael Johnson and
Marie-Jose-Perec.

Even here the media was prejudiced awarding Johnson reams of newsprint and Marie-Jose-Perec a few concessionary paragraphs. Their reasoning: Johnson's feat was accomplished for the first time in history, whereas Perec had just repeated American Valerie Brisco Hook's feat 12 years ago at the Games.

Yet, Perec was not complaining. She was a seasoned athlete who had discovered that fame and publicity could be a double-edged sword which cuts both ways. Perec realised this immediately after her first great performance: a gold medal at the Barcelona Games in the 400 m. When she returned to Paris from Barcelona she was the toast of the nation. She was toasted by the media and the who's who of France. Perec had once said, "In Paris, I'm like Michael Jordan."

Perec had attained celebrity status in Paris.

A couple of bad performances was all it took for Marie-Jose-Perec to come face to face with the vitriolic and totally unsympathetic side of the media. She realised very soon that the fame which was rightfully hers could

leave her totally distraught and shattered.

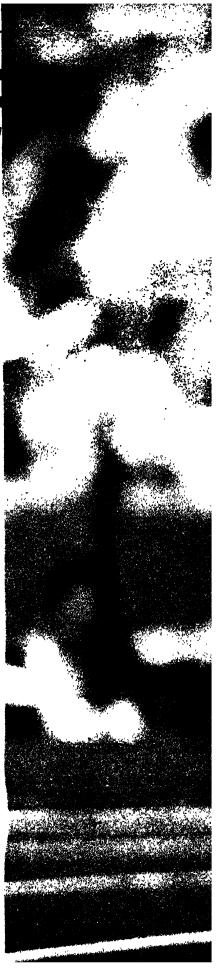
The final straw broke after her coach, Jacques Piasenta, a man whom she trusted totally, failed to come to her defense. The teenager who had come to France from the French Carribean island of Guadaloupe was so ravaged that she decided to end the rather complicated relationship with her adopted motherland. She parted ways with her coach Piasenta and split for the United States of America where she came under the tutelage of college coach John Smith, who incidentally was a world record holder in the 400 mts.

Smith immediately realised that the lithe 60 kilogram, 1.80 metre frame was capable of running—and running well. Smith put Perec through a gruelling regimen and after a while, managed to instil some sense of discipline into his ward. Gradually Perec began chipping away micro seconds from her timings and slowly began returning to race-winning form.

The new environment, where she was devoid of media distractions suited her just fine. She realised that at the Centennial Games she would have to prove to herself, the media and more importantly to the French people that her victory at Barcelona was no fluke. Perec devoted herself totally to the pursuit of running and took little time off for anything else. Even her modelling career — she models for renowned designer Valentino— took a back seat, while she focussed herself totally on the 400 mts. gold at Atlanta.

While her compatriots like Merlene Ottey, Gail Devers and Gwen Torrence went about winning the races on the athletic circuit, Perec never went all out. La Gazelle, as Perec is known for her languid running

Marie Jose-Perec won the 200 and the 400m in style and became only the second woman in bistory to win the double at the Games





style, and her coach were looking for glory at the Atlanta Games. Though she was portrayed as a potential medal winner in the 400m — she was certainly not written about as a serious contender for the 'double' as Michael Johnson.

In fact, Perec and Smith were concentrating solely on the 400m, and Perec really had no dreams of repeating the feat of Valerie Brisco Hooks. After she completed the historic 'double' Perec admitted that she had competed in the 200m, "for fun".

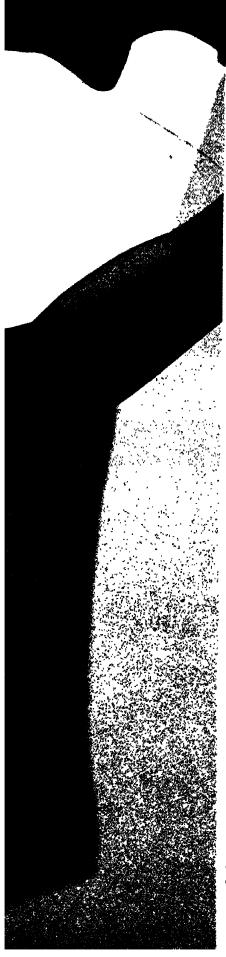
But the moment she overtook Australian Aborigine Cathy Freeman in the 400 metres Perec had made her date with destiny. She also realised then that this was the chance to surely silence all her critics, and record her name for posterity's sake in the athletics record books. The race that she had entered 'for fun' was going to be the most gruelling and the most important race that she had ever run. Methodically Perec and coach Smith plotted strategies keeping in mind her opponent's strengths and weaknesses. Perec later admitted, "I know I was strong at the end and wasn't frightened of Merlene's finish and it all worked out as planned. I waited for the right moment and didn't get worried." The fact that Perec seized the lead in the 200 mts with just 10 mts left and with Ottey almost in sight of her first Olympic gold bears testimony to the strategy planning that was formed in Camp Perec before the second race.

It was only after Perec breasted the tape that realisation sunk into the Frenchwoman that she had probably deprived Merlene Ottey of her chances of an individual Olympic gold. The resultant exultations were low key, as Perec was aware of the painful and sombre mental state of Ottey. Immediately after the race Perec in a highly emotional state said, "I respect her (Ottey) a lot. You could see it on my face in the end that it bothered me."

It was only later that the enormity of the feat sunk into Perec's psyche. She told the assembled media, "I am

After her fantastic performance at Atlanta Perec became France's beloved daughter yet again





still shivering. To me it was quite clear to do it now or never. I was ready to die on the track."

Once Perec had let go of all the nervous energy that was bottled up inside her it was PR time for the woman of the Centennial Games. She knew that this was the best opportunity to thank America for all that it had offered her, and she did precisely that. "I was never relaxed when I was in France. I was always nervous. It was only since coming to America, I feel no pressure and I do

team's joint chef-de-mission linked Perec's feat to the fact that the French team returned with their largest collection of medals since the Paris Games to a 'system' that the French government had instituted. Oprendek was of the opinion that success in the '96 Games was the result of the money that was being pumped into sport and because of the incentives given by the government — Perec earned 500,000 francs from the French government. The chef-de-mission said, "Models like Marie-Jose-Perec are a great help



better. In France, I didn't think of myself as exceptional. Now 1 do."

Even in France the love-hate affair between Perec and her countrymen transformed into a love affair overnight. "His-To-Ri-Que" screamed the headline in L'Equipe the French sporting daily. Now that Perec had finally won the 'double' and had draped the French flag around her, every Frenchman wanted to take his credit for her performance.

Jean Michel Oprendek, the French

to those emerging from the system."

What the French people have conveniently forgotten was that it was the 'system' that Perec wanted to flee in the first place when she took off to the USA. But for now Marie-Jose-Perec remains France's most beloved daughter, and is the toast of the nation once again. Whether this love affair will be a lasting bond is something which remains to be seen.

K.O. Jacob

PENNY FOR YC



UR THOUGHTS

South Africa's PENNY HEYNS became the first person from her country to win two Olympic individual gold medals

ENNY HEYNS crowned South
Africa's Olympic resurrection by
winning the nation's first gold medal
at the Games since 1952. Heyns
shattered her own world 100m breaststroke
record in the heats and completed a historic
day by winning the Olympic title, South
Africa's first since swimming predecessor
Joan Harrison won the 100m backstroke at
the 1952 Helsinki Games.

But the 21-year-old American-based swimmer had to fight off a fierce charge on the return length from 14-year-old American Amanda Beard to win in 1:07.73. This was the long-awaited gold following the two silvers South Africa won in 1992 after its post-apartheid return to the Olympic fold.

Penelope 'Penny' Heyns, South Africa's swimming gold medallist courts criticism in a manner reminiscent of the original 'Bad Girl of the Pool', Australia's Dawn Fraser. Heyns went on record immediately after her medal ceremony, saying she thought that South Africa "might not be ready to stage the Games in 2004." South Africa is bidding for the 2004 Games with 'a strong moral and emotional card,' to quote Nelson Mandela, the President of the country.

Heyns did try to temper her remarks by saying that she doesn't spent much time in South Africa nowadays; she's at college in Nebraska in the United States. So she doesn't really know how things are developing. But, that only served to make things worse. It's not the first time that Heyns has been seen to be implicitly critical of the new government at home.

Back in 1991, Heyns was given her 'colours', just as the apartheid regime was crumbling. But she then went a step further and had a Springbok tattooed on the side of

from carrying the flag, as had been mooted, when South Africa were re-admitted to the Games in Barcelona the following year. Aged 17, Heyns came 33rd in the 100m breaststroke in Spain.

In Atlanta, South African vice president,

her head. That was sufficient to disqualify her

In Atlanta, South African vice president, Thabo Mbeki was present to see the Heyns demolish the opposition in the Georgia State pool, after cancelling a trip to Washington, at the behest of their national Olympic committee chief, Sam Ramasamy, who said he had a 'hunch' that Heyns would win. Both Mbeke and Ramasamy had tears in their eyes as God Bless Africa played in an Olympic arena for the first time.

Not satisfied with her earlier triumph, Penny Heyns made sure her compatriots did not have to wait so long for the next by winning the 200 breaststroke too.

"I don't think I could be more prouder to be a South African," said Heyns, the first of her nation to win two Olympic golds. But she only just staved off a sizzling challenge by Amanda Beard on the final length and had a mere 0.34 of a second to spare in the end as the 14-year-old American cut back what had looked an untouchable lead.

"It was an amazing two races. In the 100, I managed to get away but I pushed all the way in the 200m," said Heyns, who clocked two minutes 25.41 seconds, to lower the Olympic record.

Heyns said that she would like to compete till the 2004 Games, although as she put it dramatically, "Oh my God, I'll be 29." So she has a good chance to emulate Dawn Frasers three gold medals in a row. It's a tough task but she has the talent and the determination to achieve it.

Ponny Hoyns, waiting on the blocks, moments before the start of the 160m breaststroke at the Atlants Olympics. Eventually, she won the gold Once the toast of the golfing fraternity, SEVE BALLESTEROS, Spain's most gifted golfer, sees his career lying in tatters

HEN Severiano Ballesteros was all of 19 years old, he gave evidence of his awesome golfing form. And this he did by frightening the daylights out of one of golf millionaires, Johnny Miller at the Royal Birkdale in 1979 when he nearly beat the American. The golfing fraternity began to spread word that a lad from Spain had suddenly sprung up from nowhere and had caused immense embarrassment to the more seasoned golfers. They also predicted that if the Spanish prodigy put more passion and consistency into his game, he would certainly take the golfing world by storm some day.

But the one thing the golfing circles pondered about at that time was this: what was the level of golf in Spain? And could a Spanish golfer ever rise up the ranks and take on the might of the Americans? The answer to the dilemma was Severiano Ballesteros.

Ballesteros made the plunge into the tough professional world of golf when names like the legendary Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson, Johnny Miller, Greg Norman, and a host of others ruled the game. Seve had to confront the stiff challenge, come what may. That the Spanish golfer had the potential to face the formidable opposition was amply provided at the Royal Birkdale in 1976. Pepped by such a performance, Seve began to concentrate on the game with Manuel giving him all the inspiration which paid rich dividends later.

At the age of 22, Seve Ballesteros went to Royal Lythan and St. Annes in

THE TORME



NTED GENIUS!





1979 where he won his first major in the most enthralling final round of the British Open Championship. American Ben Crenshaw was level with the Spaniard in the 70th hole. It was in the next hole that Crenshaw met his nadir. His caddy Dave Musgrove who was all along with Seve vividly recalls the moment of glory: "He did not care what the hell he had done with the ball so long as he could find it and hit it with a good whack. He never wasted time wondering about what he had done with his swing. All that mattered was what he was going to do with his next shot."

The Open Championship statistics show that no pro had won the title twice at the same venue other than Ballesteros. So when he appeared on the greens for a second time at the Royal Lytham and St Annes in 1988 as a gesture of goodwill, the people there hung a banner from the window of a house by the 1st green which read in Spanish "Severiano gana por favor" meaning "Please win, Severiano". He obliged by winning the Open.

Being one of the game's greatest talents who won the Masters at Augusta and fashioned Europe's Ryder Cup victory, Ballesteros today seems to be a poor shadow of his past. Even when he went to the Royal Lytham and St Annes for his third attempt, the locals didn't forget to hang the same banner. The locals wanted Seve to succeed. At the practice session, people and players were making queries about the Spaniard's whereabouts, his form, his chances. There was no denving the fact that Ballesteros was very popular and his name carried a lot of weight wherever he went.

But the one big question was: Is Ballesteros capable of making a comeback? Golfing circles feel that at the age of 39 it could be Seve's final year as a pro. His present form showed that the golfer's rich talent lay in tatters: he had no chance at the Royal Lytham. He could not even make the cut. The gradual decline of the gifted genius has began and only a miracle can save him from this pathetic plight.

The present graph shows that in the





tournaments in the current season that he has participated in I urope Ballesteros' best place was 12th. In most cases he failed to survive the cut Before the Open. Seve inade a brief foray to the United States to take part in the Players. Championship but he was forced to withdraw due to a bad back which is still aggravating him when he finished 43rd in the Masters it was only the second time he survived the golfer's guillotine.

Today Ballesteros finds himself in utter solitude. The powerful presence of his biothers which had left an enduring mark on his performance over the years is surprisingly not there. And to make matters worse, the technical deficiencies which were not evident before are making him look even more pathetic. Flirting with inconsistency and lacking confidence for quite some time. Ballesteros is certainly at the crossroads of his career. Every one is sympathetic but all they can do is make suggestions.

Brother Manuel is a sad man today He told *The Observer* He was a player who knew a lot about golf. Now it seems he knows nothing. It is very sad because I know how much this troubles him how much playing well means. I worry for him because if he carries on the way he is going. I fear he will become crazy in the head.

Licel he needs someone special besides him someone he can talk to about all the bad feeling that is inside. He is a great man a man who has surprised me all his life but now I think he needs a sort of father confessor. I have tried to help, but it is no good.

Yes Severiano Ballesteros is withering like a leaf during autumn. He realises that he ill never be what he once was in the late Seventies. Seve now watches films of his triumphs as it inspires him and makes him happy. Like when he confided to *The Times*. If am not doing it to see if I can inspire myself. I am proud to see what I did before. I am sad that I can it be youthful forever. I verybody is going to die. That is the only truth in life, so you can't do anything about it.

Severiano gana por lavor Subhash Sarcar





DDBALL?

JONAH LOMU, the star of the rugby World Cup, has a serious knee injury. There is a possibility that his international career is in danger

N the world of rugby, they are asking this one question: whatever has happened to Jonah Lomu, the superstar of the World Cup held in South Africa last year?

Well, he was in South Africa where the All-Blacks were playing a three Test series against the South Africans. But the sad news was that he was there as a spectator. He's had an injury to his left knee that has been worsening day by day. It has left a big question mark over his future as one of New Zealand's great stars.

"The knee is giving me a great deal of trouble," he said, "I damaged the medial ligaments against Scotland earlier in the season and I've had a problem running flat out ever since. It is worrying because I can't straighten my left leg. I can walk, no problem, but I simply can't run properly.

"I had hoped that the injury would clear up by now," he continued, "but for some reason, it just hasn't improved. The leg needs rest but right now, I can't afford to take off any time. I want to play in every international and that means I've got to be prepared to put up with the pain.

"The pain doesn't bother me because playing for the All-Blacks has always been very important for me. I'll just try to get through these Tests against South Africa and hope that the off-season gives me the time to heal up. I want to avoid an operation if I can. But only time will tell. Perhaps, in the end, that may be my only option."

Lomu in action against South Africa during the final of the World Cup last year. The South Africans bottled him thoroughly

He looked sad. So I changed the topic. I asked him about the World Cup. I asked him specifically about the 45-29 destruction of England in the semi final of the World Cup.

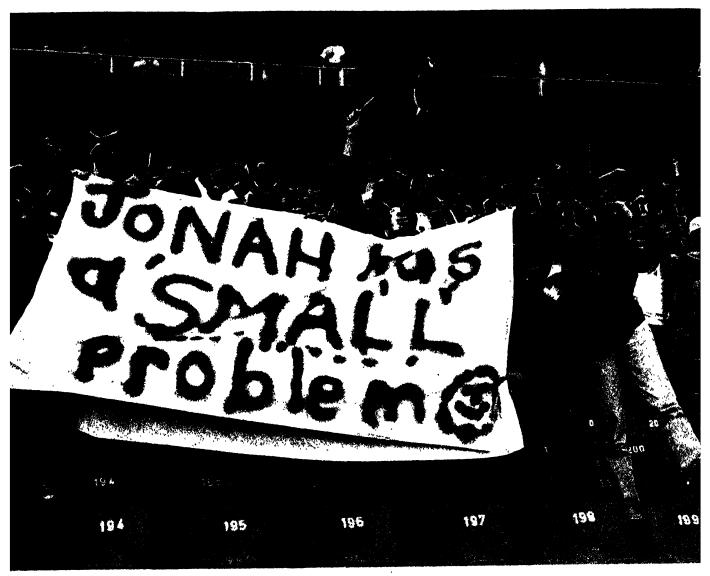
Lomu smiles and says, "You won't believe it but my first try, within seconds of the game starting, came, thanks to the lapse of the England full-black Mike Catt."

Forcing back a chuckle, he said "I'm not really kidding, I should never have scored. In fact, I am still not sure how I got over the line. It was pure luck, but I know one thing—I would never have made it if it hadn't been for Mike Catt.

"When I ran through Tony Underwood's tackle, I completely lost my balance. I could feel my legs going from under me, only my forward motion carried me over the tackle. There was nothing that I could do. I knew I was going to fall flat on my face. For an instant, I thought about unloading the ball, then Catt hit me and knocked me up, straightening my legs."

He's still smiling as he continues with his description, "That gave me the impetus I needed and pushed me over the line. Without Catt's hit, I would have never got to the line....I've met him a couple of times since. He's a good guy, so I haven't had the heart to tell him. To be honest, that wasn't the best try I scored in the game. That came early in the second half. I got on the end of a really good move and that gave me more satisfaction."

Jonah Lomu played his best match against England. Because, in the final, he was a pale shadow of his former



The caption of the flag shows how well the South Africans contained Lomu

semi final self. He was totally bottled up by the South African defence. He just could not get any free space, to do his powerful wing runs that had shattered England in the semi final. But he has not been discouraged or disappointed by that final performance.

"The best years are ahead of me," the 21-year old Lomu said, "when I played in the World Cup, I was very young and very raw. Guys like Walter Little and Frank Bunce did a lot of spadework to give me the room to run down the wing. Since then, I've learnt quite a bit more about international rugby. Now I cut back inside far more

"The knee is giving me a great deal of trouble. I damaged the medial ligaments against Scatland earlier in the season and I've had a problem running flat out ever since. It is werrying because I can't straighten out my left leg. I can walk, no problem, but I simply can't run properly." Jonah Long.

than I used to, and that means I'm creating opportunities for other guys around me. I set up a good try for our scrum-half Justin Marshall, in our recent win over Australia in Brisbane. In many ways that gave me more pleasure than scoring myself."

Jonah Lomu has all the potential to become a rugby great. Superb speed, awesome strength, a tactical awareness and a never-say-die attitude. All this should qualify him to dominate rugby in the years to come. Provided, of course, the knee heals properly. Provided that he returns to full litness.

For that to happen, he is doing what all the players in his position do: keep his fingers crossed.

William Rhodes

SNOWMAN!

THEDO REMMELINK, the '90 World Cup bronze medallist in snowboarding, plans to bring his sport to Leh

> PECULIAR aspect of Kathmandu, says British climber Chris Bonington, is that you can run into the

world's most famous mountaineers strolling casually, unrecognised, through the bazaar Last month, an unassuming world-class sportsman enjoyed much the same obscurity in Leh town in Jammu and Kashmir's I adakh region. His name Thedo Remmelink from Holland, bronze medallist in the 1995 snowboarding World Cup

His sport is little known in India except for Manali. Himachal Pradesh where winters see foreigners with snowboards joining skiers on the slopes of Solang. A snowboard is a variation of a monoski or single ski. On a monoski, the feet are side by side and facing full front forward while on a snowboard the left foot is ahead though parallel to the other. The foot placement is angled to the right so that the snowboarder rides with his body's left side facing the slope.

Thedo, 33, who has been snowboarding for nine years, grew up to fulfil a childhood ambition "In school, I always wanted to be a professional sportsman one day," he remembers. Lithe and athletic, he was a champion metocross racer for 10 years before switching to snowboarding 'Motocross is too injury-prone. It's hard, to be professional in a sport where so many injuries occur," he says. But the innumerable broken bones he suffered did not prevent him becoming the national motocross.

champion

As a snowboarder, he has an even more brilliant record. He won all the four national championships he participated in, only missing out some years as they clashed with World Cup races. Last year, he stood third in the World Cup rankings—calculated on the basis of 15 competitions held at various venues in Furope, Japan and the US

His immediate goal over the next two years is to compete in the 1998 Winter Olympics, in Nagano, Japan "The Olympics are the highest level of competition and I want to represent iny country there. After that I'll retire from competition," he says

Though he grew up in Zelhelm, Holland Thedo now lives in Kaprun, a well known ski centre in Austria "It has facilities to train all the year round. The airport is an hour away. It is a nice village which is full of winter sport enthusiasts all the time, not just in the tourist season," he says. His home is a farmhouse where "we live simply with the cooking and heating done by wood. In summer, we spend time outdoors and have lovely barbecues,"he smiles.

A warm, sensitive person Thedo loves reading, particularly books on psychology, and talking Conversation for him is an exchange and ingestion of new ideas. He also listens to music, contemporary and classical. I'm open to any kind of music which works on my emotions, he says.

But his overriding interest is travel He has been to Japan, Canada, the US and all over Furope for competitions. This trip to India was a holiday in "a country about which I read and heard so much—Rajasthan, Agra and Lada\h were all he could cram into a month but he promises to be back, perhaps to explore possibilities for snowboarding near Leh—"I will bring my equipment and test the



Thedo Remmelink vacationing in Kathmandu

conditions Maybe training centres can be set up, 'he says

Thedo has built up a formidable stock of information on training methods for his sport. His trip to Ladakh included a climb of Stok Kangri (6153 m). "In Kaprun, we train on a glacier at 3000m, so this exposure to altitude is something new for me," he remarked. Apart from helping him prepare for competition, his knowledge of training processes will stand him in good stead when he retires and sets up his own training centre in 1998.

Yana Banerjee-Bey

Pakistan, with a devastating display of all round talent and exemplary leadership from Wasim Akram, put England to the sword

BY SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

AKISTAN, at the moment, can be the despair of all other cricketing sides in the world.
This is not just an echo of the post-match rhetoric of an exalted Wasim Akram, but an unnerving fact that most other nations would have to live with for some time.

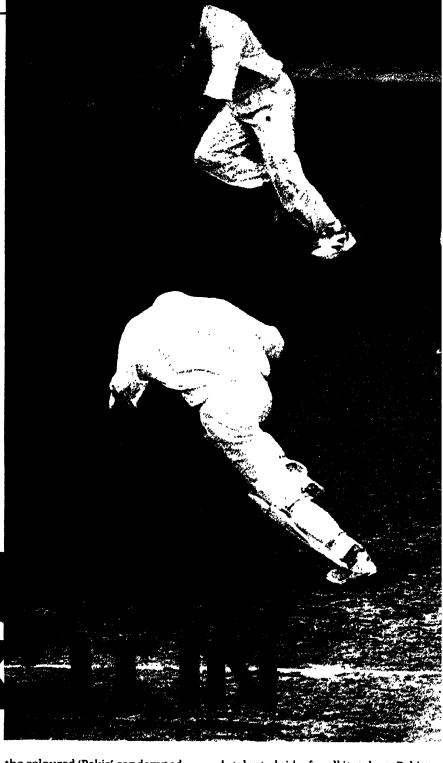
And the despair showed. When the poverty of English cricket was once again exposed, by the devastating Pakistanis for the final time at Old Trafford, the decaying ethos of a section of the English society could not be concealed either. The triumphant Pakistanis immediately became 'Pakis', in the eyes of some

THE 'PAK

conceited Englishmen at the stands; their skin looked a shade darker than normal and an exciting cricket match became the focal point of blatant racism.

This racism, I am sure, did not stem from shattered pride, or even an inflated sense of racial superiority. This was poverty. This was bankruptcy. Of values, morale and self-esteem, This was despair to which the coloured 'Pakis' condemned England, exposing their carefully camouflaged weaknesses that a rather disorganised, disoriented but talented India failed to exploit just a few months back.

It was in fact, easy to predict, long before the tour, that Pakistan would be in punishing form. It was easy not just because Pakistan was a superbly talented side; for all its talent, Pakistan indeed was in considerable disarray until recently. It was easy because the present England side is obviously not a first-rate side. The Indian failure to prey on their weaker opponents might have given England a false sense of superiority. In truth, it was only a temporary reprieve. Those frustrated men who called the





Pakistanis 'Pakis', because they punctured their hollow national pride, were absolutely in the dark about it.

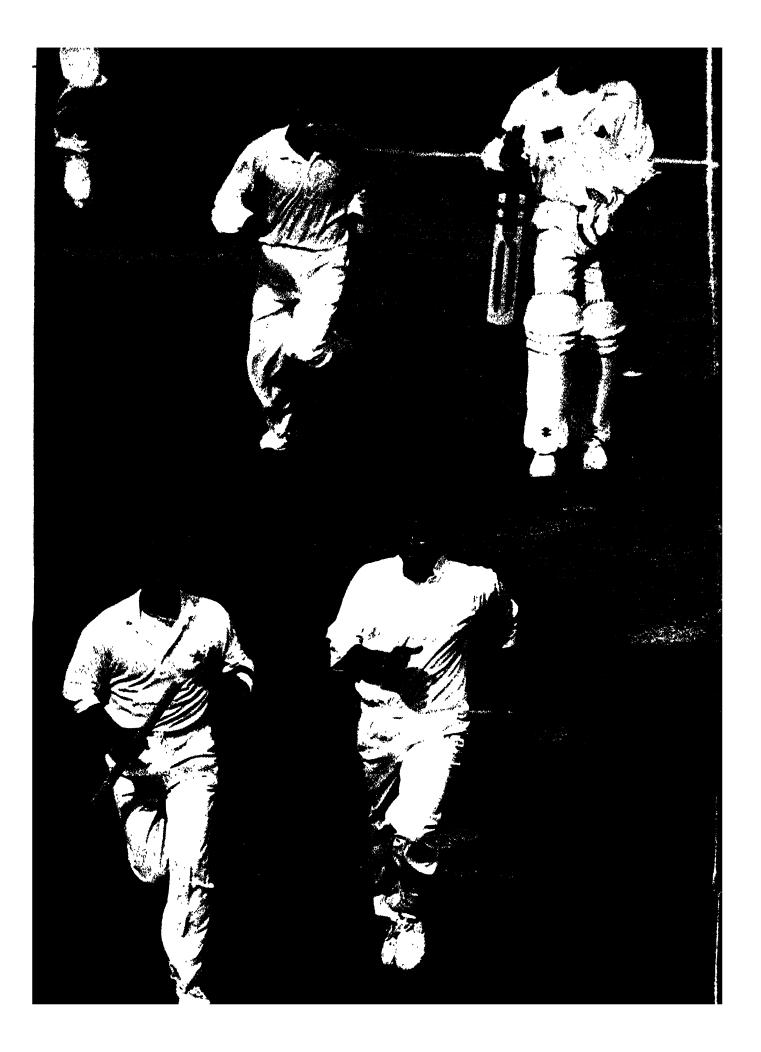
Let me enlighten them with a few stark, depressing statistics. England have lost four series against Australia; against the 'Pakis', they have lost five in a row. Isn't that pathetic? Their recent South African experience was

Mark Ealham bowled in the first Cornhill Test which Pakistan won easily

disastrous; and of course, in one-day cricket too, their World Cup outing proved lacklustre and insignificant.

In recent times only, India obliged them, so inexplicably, as if they owed them a debt of gratitude, on the eve of their fiftieth Independence anniversary, for teaching them such an excellent sport. But the Pakistanis were defiant, despite the mess caused by a series of scandals, controversies and the general administrative disorder so typical of subcontinental cricket.

Believe it or not, even now at this hour of glory and triumph, skipper Wasim Akram still thinks that the



Weger Younis and captain Wasim Akram running to the pavilion after Pakistan's comprehensive series victory

condition of Pakistani's domestic cricket is appalling. He calls his side the best in the world, and there can be little doubt now that his words are not hollow.

And yet, Wasim Akram maintains that but for the abundance of talent, the faults in the system, would have dragged them down to ignominy. And ignominy did threaten to overwhelm his morale, when burnt effigies greeted him in Lahore back in March, after the World Cup defeat at India's hands.

But it was Akram who, so appropriately, took the lead in beating the odds, the system. For, he was sure, deep down, that raw talent, if forged into a cohesive unit, through able leadership, can produce explosive results, no matter how disorganised cricket may be in a country's domestic set-up. The vindication of Wasim Akram took place so spectacularly in England. Especially, when his 300th wicket, the last nail in England's coffin, gave it all such a symbolic significance at The Oval.

He was the man in charge of putting England back in its place; he demolished England's last wicket with a ball, in a style, that carried Wasim Akram's unmistakable signature: Excellence.

But that characteristic was not only his own. And as a good leader, Akram was constantly aware of that both during the series and in his hour of triumph. His comment that Mushtaq Ahmed is the best spinner in the world, better than even Australia's Shane Warne might have raised a few eyebrows in the English cricketing intelligentsia, but Akram backed his

The indispensible spinner Mushtaq Ahmed who triggered the inevitable downfall of England at The Oval. Pakistan wrapped up the series 2-0





claim with facts, saying, "Mushtaq is taking more wickets than Shane Warne and has more variety."

And proof that it was not just the skipper's post-victory compliments, rather his conviction, came abundantly, during the series, when Akram made the best use of the best weapon in his arsenal.

At The Oval, Wasim Akram knew from the very beginning that Mushtaq Ahmed would be lethal. He asked Mushtaq to focus his spin attack from one end, persevered with it for a reasonable duration and then reaped the benefits of his strategy when Mushtaq triggered the inevitable downfall of England.

Even the pundits underestimated Mushtaq Ahmed's devastating potential. When the third day of the

last Test was washed by rain, the media hastily wrote the match off as a draw, sought consolation from the fact that England lost the series by just a whisker—0-1. Little did they know what was still in store for England.

England was up against the spin magic of Mushtaq. The loss of just one day could hardly matter, when a bowler could haul six wickets for 56 in a day coolly. Mushtaq spun the life out of England batting in one of the most dazzling as well as bewildering bowling performances in recent years. And mind you, at The Oval, it was the most unblemished of wickets.

For England, one might put forward the excuse, that the wicket was a factor in their lacklustre bowling. But the truth is more than the wicket; England's problems had been really Even this distinguished guest at Lord's couldn't prevent Pakistan from 'streaking' to victory

been its overall standard of howling over this entire series. Their best bet Dominic Cork, the aggressive, sometimes too arrogantly aggressive bowler seemed to have lost his thunder that created quite a few problems for the Indian batsmen.

But then, India's batsmen sometimes lacked application, which may be the reason why Cork looked larger than lifesize, though very rarely. But up against the most formidable batting line-up in the world that Pakistan has now been gifted with, I think, Cork's penetration was put in proper perspective. He is a good bowler, and slightly out of form at the moment, true. But against the very top, he still has a long way to go to prove his class.

Sadly, England do not have anyone at the moment, who can compensate for Cork's fluctuating powers; neither is there a clear match-winner either among the batsmen or the bowlers.

Neither did England have a skipper who always took the best of decisions At The Oval, in particular, Atherton should have had to do some answering over his decision to depend too much on Cork. He obviously was trying to do the most of what he got, but what he failed to notice was that England lacked one of cricket's most essential virtues: application.

Mike Atherton has long been cherished as the best thing to have happened to England cricket in a long time. But as captain, he paled against the truly exemplary leadership that Wasim Akram demonstrated. A team that could not even make room for players like Saqlain Mushtaq, already tipped off as probably the best off-spinner in the world, is obviously formidably rich in talent.

Wasim Akram knew all he needed to do was make his boys believe in themselves. Even though his own bowling lacked colour, and vigour, he showed what captaincy is all about in this game, in sharp contrast to what the Indians had to put up with during their disastrous tour.

READERS

QUESTIONS

Invented by Nicolas Bosanquet, the Australians named it 'Bosie' after the inventor. Its first victim was Samuel Coe in St.Johns Wood in London in 1900. It was also the mascot of a very prestigious tournament. What are we talking about?

The highest ever wicket-partnership in England was between Herbert Sutcliffe and Percy Holmes in 1923 against Essex in Leyton. What significance does this record have with the present day corporate

CARTOONS ARTHUR CARDOZO

world?

Two traditional opponents fight it over in an annual cricket tournament for the Raghurammaiya Cup. which play in this tournament?

A couple of years ago, during the renovation programme of the Tihar jail in Delhi, two wards of the jail were named after sportsmen to inspire the inmates. Which sportsmen's names were used?

"When I pressed the button, I felt like an executioner." Which Test umpire said this after an historic happening in Test cricket?

Kabhi Ajnabee The was a moderate

Answer to Question No.2

Which are the two teams

Answer to Question No.3

earning Bollywood movie which had Sandip Patil starring opposite Parveen Babi. Who played the villian in the movie?

POLITRIX!

Which Englishman's death by natural cause was rumoured

during the World War in the German camp that he was killed in an air raid to boost up the German morale?

Only once in his cricketing career was Sir Don Bradman given out hit wicket. Who was the bowler bowling to him?

Hitting Across The . Line, the autobiography of Viv Richards was made into a film. Which well known figure from the entertainment industry presented this film?

They are from diverse sports. But what's common to Ken Rosewall and Venkatpathy Raju?

ANSWERS

- 1. The invention was the googly which also was the mascot for the '96 World Cup.
- 2. The 555 cigarettes got their brand name from the highest wicket partnership score.
- 3. The Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha compete in the tournament.
- 4. Sachin Tendulkar and Vinod Kambli.
- 5. Carl Linberg before giving the first third umpire's decision in Test cricket. The batsman given out was Sachin Tendulkar.
- 6. Syed Kirmani.
- 7. W.G. Grace.
- 8. Lala Amarnath.
- 9. Eric Clapton.
- 10. Both are nick named Muscles.

QUITE A HUFF AND PUFF

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



MAYANK SHEKHAR, D-11/338 Vinay Marg, CHANAKYAPŪRI, NEW DELHI- 110 021.

All answers sent in by contributor.

FROM RICA ROY, COLOMBO

AN HEALY is not a man given to vaulting ambition or greed. He probably lives a sparse, self-effacing life of a quiet attainment that has won him more friends than chances to lead Australia. Given the next major challenge for the Australians is to defend the Singer Cup at Sri Lanka, their new stand-in captain Healy is here to put forth all his experiences acquired in the past couple of years as Taylor's deputy.

Here is a kind of professional who isn't much concerned about the colour and glamour of the one-day game. He's just here to play it, driving motivation from the baggy green cap. There isn't any aggressive gestures or hostile attitudes. He would want to win of course but not by adopting any unfair means.

Can this be an Australian cricketer? Would that not be a contradiction in terms? Can this man be for real? Certainly. He comes along as a refreshingly different personality than two of his predecessors Border and Taylor. No, it is not that they were rude, brusque or arrogant. It's just that Healy comes across as a nice, pleasant, warm and sincere person, incapable of hurting anyone's feelings.

Confidence is a human quality seldom in short supply in Australian dressing rooms, specially after Mark Taylor has been in charge. And Healy doesn't have to pump that into his teammates. The enquiry from a section of the press on his captaincy goals is greeted with the answer, "My goals are on short term basis."

They say it is tough at the top but,

boy, can it also get trivial. The price of stardom is microscopic scrutiny whereby on every public appearance Healy is being visually frisked for hidden personality traits. "That's normal," says the captain from

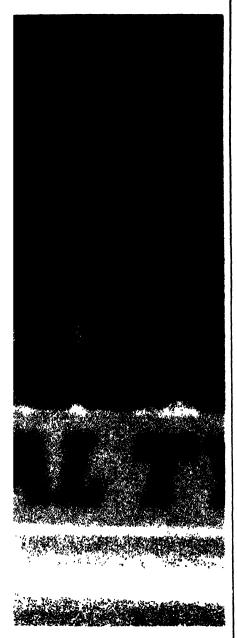


DEPENDABLE'

IAN HEALY, the stand-in Australian captain has impeccable credentials both as wicket-keeper and batsman

Queensland.

For long Healy has been the 'Mr Dependable' to the Australians. His valiant efforts can only be explained in the words of Shane Warne who found him as, "The best keeper I could



lan Heely, according to Shane Warne, is the best keeper he has ever come across. Picture shows him in action against Sri Lanka in the Wills World Cup

ever have thought of. He's shared the credit for a great number of wickets I've taken for Australia over the past few years. He's done a tremendous job and is an asset for us". Only the

second eminent Queenslander wicketkeeper to lead Australia after Barry Jarman, Healy's ascendancy to the highest levels were not quite at ease. "There were the under-14, under-15, under-16, under-21, Till the under-21 days, things were easily sailing for me. I was performing par with satisfaction. But then came the jerk. There were too many good wicketkeepers around and I had to fight my way for the recognition." It was a hard road to the top. Helped by Rod Marsh and his performances with Queensland enabled him to find a place in the team for the tour in West Indies in 1988-89.

Today he's surely the best wicketkeeper-batsman in the world. Time and again Healy has come out with his willow as Australia's man in crisis. The vital No. 6 spot has been firmly held and nurtured by Healy for the last few years. Geoff Marsh, the newly-appointed Australian coach sums up his observations as, "lan is very positive in wanting to attack and has shown more of a willingness as a batsman and keeper to take on the opposition from the word go"

Healy is understandably looking to Marsh for guidance but is also prepared to listen to the younger players as well. "When I came onto the top level, Allan Border was the captain and I picked up bits and pieces from him, then Mark Taylor, so I feel I have learnt from them all," he said, adding "I don't feel the need to keep my distance, to put myself on a different social pedestal to everyone else. I believe people will respect me and my work only when I've really done something."

The words 'respect' and 'work' crop up a lot in his conversation, which incidentally is not the professional patter spouted by most global sports stars. In the course of 35 minutes, though his English is wobblier than you would expect after a post-practice session, he is thoughtful, making steeples with his hands as he assesses his skills.

Doesn't a thinking keeper make a good captain? "Good vice-captain," is his opinion. "In fact,

a wicketkeeper should be allowed to work behind the stumps without any pressure. He can be the best vice-captain, judging every ball behind the stumps, noticing every move of the batsman and reporting to the captain. He can certainly be the best advisor." To the 32-year-old Aussie captain his records matter very little. It's the team's interest he plays for. Gamble? No certainly, he won't put the nation's prestige at stake. Even if the dear journalist friends show him odds suggesting something otherwise. The subject of teammates prompts an impassioned soliloguy. "Everybody seems to support me. It's a great feeling to lead a team of so many achievers. They all come up with individual excellence on their day. They all have huge talents and potential, only a bit of luck and they'll do wonders."

After boycotting Sri Lanka during the World Cup, the ACB has finally conceded to send its cricket team to Sri Lanka. And with Taylor's back ailment holding him back, it was inevitable for Healy to take charge. Back in Lanka after the 1993 Singer Cup, they find 'hospitality' as the highlight of the series. While Healy has spoken warmly of the reception accorded to the team in Colombo, he is also supportive of the Australian Cricket Board. "It would have been incorrect to have come at the time of the World Cup as it is a correct decision to come now," said the genial Australian.

From the moment Healy landed here along with his teammates on his first captaincy assignment, the spotlight has been on them and under the glare of these lights, the captain and manager Cam Battersby have been the very epitome of diplomacy and tact. The fence mending exercise has begun in real earnest and Healy has repeatedly said that whatever has happened in the past is over and the objective now is to look to the future. At the Australian High Commissioner's dinner Healy had a long friendly chat with Arjuna Ranatunga. He also spared time and effort in striking a cordial relationship with the media.

BANNED... FOR A WHILE

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU received a mere 50-day ban from international cricket. The chances are that he will be in the Indian team when it tours South Africa

BY SUMIT MUKHERJEE

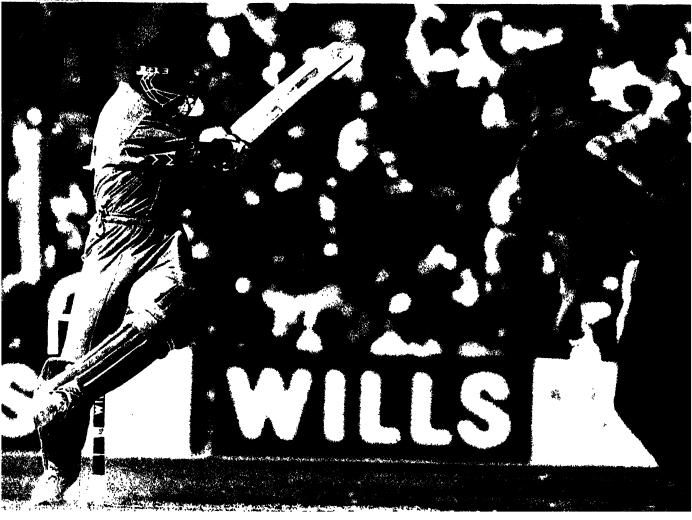
T is not often that Navjot Singh Sidhu takes his wife for dinner. That's because his national and international cricket commitments do not allow him the time for that luxury. But when wife

Navjot (they share a common name), 'invited' Sidhu out for dinner soon after he returned to Patiala after attending the BCCI's disciplinary committee meeting in Chandigarh on August 25, our Sherry (Sidhu's nickname) was more than touched.

"She had heard about the verdict

before I got back. But I guess I owed her a treat because I could not have gone through the last few months without her support," Sidhu said.

On the surface, a 50-day ban from international cricket and a hefty fine, apart from being kept out of two prestigious limited overs tournament hardly called for a celebration. But,



deep down, the ban was just a minor price Sidhu had to pay in order to protect his self-respect.

His reaction to the ban was typically philosophical: "Nobody in this world gets everything; some do get the sky while others are deprived of the earth," Sidhu said quoting a famous Urdu couplet.

The story of Sidhu is one of triumph of a man's spirit over insurmountable odds. He has emerged from the one of the most sordid incidents in Indian cricket with his head held high. For the man who has made more comebacks into the Indian team than Mohinder 'Jimmy' Amarnath, Sidhu had effectively won the battle when the selectors removed Mohammed Azharuddin from the national captaincy. But, like a good sportsman, he waited for the final verdict which also gave him time to assess the losses suffered in the process.

While cricket pundits will continue to debate whether Sidhu's unceremonious walk-out from the Indian team in the midst of the England tour was sportsmanlike or not, the fact remains that the end has certainly justified the means.

For far too long, the favourite whipping boy of Indian cricket had taken it lying down. "If I am so important to the team, why am I subject to these chopping and changing?" Sidhu has been quoted as saying.

Apart from being frequently chopped from the playing X1, he was once even asked to report sick when he was not. Now it was time to hit back, and when Sidhu hits them, they remain hit. At the team meeting, on the eve of the World Cup semi-final versus Sri Lanka in Calcutta, Sidhu's was a lone voice saying India should bat first after winning the toss. Well, he has always been a good student of the game. In the past three months, he showed that he was an excellent reader of the situation as well.

Call it a gambler's instinct or just plain luck, Sidhu's assumption that Azhar's ways would lead to self-destruction has come true. So confident was Sidhu that he had the



audacity to even announce his retirement. He said that he would come back only under a new captain.

In the theatre of the absurd, he found himself playing the role of a tragic hero—a victim of the team management's high handedness. It won him the nation's sympathy as well as most of his former colleagues. And he played the role to perfection.

For a change, Sidhu throttled his impetuosity and did not play a single false stroke. Every query, like a good ball, was met with a dead bat. The bouncers, he let them pass over his head. He did so with the kind of consistency which has earned him an

A pensive Sidhu is hoping to bounce back once the ban is over

average of over 40 in both versions of the game.

More importantly, he carefully refrained from naming anyone as he waited patiently for the whole episode to come to a logical conclusion. There was a small hiccup when the BCCI, after hearing his story, in all wisdom, asked Sidhu to rejoin his teammates in England. Sidhu declined. Had be gone back, Sidhu would have almost certainly escaped the ban. That was just about the only show of defiance against the powerful BCCI, before which he had otherwise surrendered



totally.

If Sidhu melted somewhat before the special three-member fact-finding committee, even admitting that the walk-out was perhaps an overreaction, it was because he did not want to queer the pitch for his return. "I want to play for India again," he kept saying. For those who know him well, batting for India is almost an obsession for Sidhu. He considers it sacred. "It is like praying to God. When I am batting for my country, my whole being is transformed as if I am in prayer," Sidhu has said.

India will miss Sidhu's presence in the Friendship Cup against Pakistan. But he has been lucky to just get away with a 50-day ban

Perhaps that is why he found the humiliation of being played around with, too much to bear. What exactly was wrong in the chemistry between Azhar and Ajit Wadekar and him is not known. What also transpired in the dressing room at the Old Trafford before the third one-dayer is still a bit hazy.

However, for once, the BCCI looked below the surface and handled the matter on merit. The removal of Azhar from the captaincy may not be the panacea of all the evils pervading Indian cricket, but it was certainly a step in the right direction.

The moment that happened, Sidhu called off his self-imposed retirement and made himself available for selection—barely 24 hours before the team for the Singer and Sahara meets were announced. In the end, it was inconsequential that he was not considered, or, for that matter, the punishment meted out to him.

The Board obviously did not want the Sidhu example to be followed in future. The special committee followed by a disciplinary committee were just cogs in the BCCI's bureaucratic wheel which laboured to deliver the final verdict. If Azhar's removal and Sachin Tendulkar's statement-soon after his appointment—that the team would need the experience of Sidhu on tougher assignments in South Africa and the West Indies signalled a victory for Sidhu, the BCCI's decision to allow him to play domestic cricket while serving the 50-day ban, has paved the way for his return to the fold.

"The fact that I can play domestic cricket is a big plus. Competitive cricket is what I need and I am looking forward to it." he says.

For Sidhu, of course, it would be nothing new. Yet another comeback. And he is looking forward to it. "I want to bury the past. It is time to look to the future," the Punjab captain said.

Come October 15, and it will be up to 'Sherry' to provide some champagne cricket.

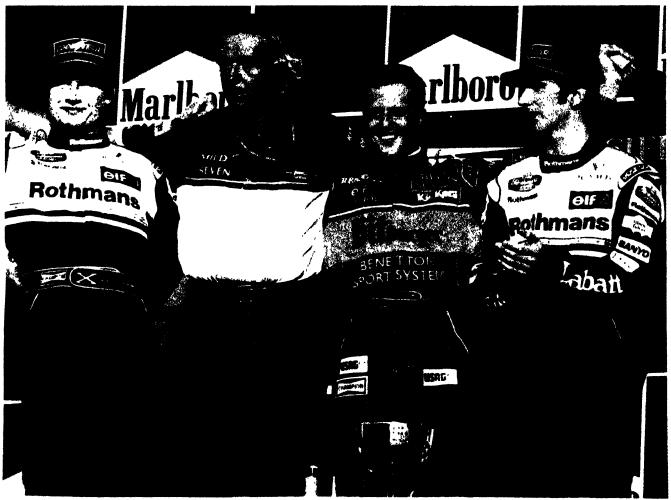
ANAN CALLED FLAVIO Benetton's Managing Director Flavio Briatore is the guru of Formula One racing

BY K.O. JACOB

OT many people who passionately follow Formula One would be aware of a personality by the name of Flavio Briatore. Yet, he was the man solely responsible for an F1 team winning two Drivers' World Championships and a constructor's title in the past couple of years. If you still cannot visualise the gentleman we're talking about rewind your mental machinery to the last GP at Australia in '95.

After being declared the best driver for the season, and after Benetton was awarded the Constructor's Championship, Briatore was the man into whose arms Michael Schumacher raced into after the announcement was made, and who was drenched by champagne afterwards. Who is Flavio Briatore? He happens to be the managing director of team Mild Seven Benetton Renault, Benetton in short.

Yet, ironically Briatore saw a Formula One car for the Bristore (second from left) soaks in that winning feeling after Benetton won both the Drivers' and the Constructors Championships in '95. Keeping him company are Coulthard, Hill and Schumacher



first time only in 1988. Having lived as a young man near Turin in Italy, Briatore's passion in his earlier years was football. Then after leaving for the United States in his early 20's to work for a Benetton company as an executive, he lost touch with his childhood passion. It was only after a lot of persuasion from Briatore's boss and closest friend Luciano Benetton, that Briatore decided in 1988 to fly down to Adelaide to watch an F1 qualifier with his oldest friend.

Briatore reminisced, "Luciano kept going on and on about his team so I said I would go, but I couldn't believe what I saw. It was so badly organised and people treated Luciano like he was nobody special. He owned the team and still they treated him like that. The whole thing was a disaster but it wasn't my problem to worry about." What Briatore forgot to mention was that it wasn't his problem for the moment.

Yet only a year after Briatore had first glanced upon a F1 car at the age of 38, the Benetton team found a crisis looming ahead of them. The corporate advisors of Benetton were of the opinion that the team should be offloaded to cut losses. Team owner, Luciano Benetton decided to give it one more chance and asked bosom triend Briatore to do him a favour. Briatore was asked to file a report as to whether the team was worth saving, and if so, what was the means of breaking even. As Briatore put it, "These are the sort of things you do for your best friend."

Briatore went. Briatore saw. And Briatore realised that there was hope. Having cast his businessman's eye over the running of the Benetton Formula One team Briatore realised that it was time for swift and drastic action. Abandoning the car's corporate colour scheme was the first on his agenda. Second on his agenda was wooing the very same sponsors who previously steered away from any direct association with Benetton because of the controversy the Benetton ad campaigns have drawn over the years. The United Breweries' Kingfisher becoming a sponsor of the Benetton team in '96 was a result of Briatore's PR skills and business acumen.

Most surprisingly the man who professed to know nothing about motor racing managed to persuade his parent company to pump in more money at a time when they were running up huge losses. He wanted the money to upgrade the Benetton cars and make them into race winning machines. His logic was very simple though, "if we actually managed to win a race then it would be better advertising than all the controversial campaigns that we run."

Briatore not just persuaded Benetton to put more money into the cars they were racing; he also advised them to invest in the basic infrastructure that is needed to run a Formula One team. The result of this advice was a sparkling state-of-the art Benetton factory and an office with the size and grandeur of a French chateau.

The newcomer to the superfast world of Formula



One was a middle aged convert who bypassed the spectator and the supporter stage. What's more, he was certainly a very fast learner. Knowing that he had the full backing of Benetton behind him, Briatore realised that if Benetton was to become a winner there would have to be a focus. The new image of the team and the commercialisation that followed was the foundation. What was needed was a catalyst —read, a gutsy driver—who could take the Benetton car to the top of the starting grid and later take the chequered flag first.

What Briatore and team Benetton were waiting for emerged in the persona of Michael Schumacher. Even in his rookie year Briatore was the first to spot Schumacher's raw driving skills and the underlying talent. Briatore, with the brains and the intuition of an investment banker, realised that Schumacher was hot property and would certainly be an investment for Benetton.

Briatore snatched away Schumacher from the Jordan team in the middle of the '91 season and this provided the perspective that the Benetton team was looking for. Schumacher was given all the help and aid that he required and the cars were developed specifically to suit Schumacher and his driving technicalities. A lot of effort was also put into strategy and as a result Schumacher finished third overall in the Championship in what was only his second year in Formula One.

In only seven years after his introduction to F1 racing Briatore came to be known as a wizard in the racing circles. And after Schumacher won two back to back



Together we've done it! Schumacher jumps into Briatore's arms after winning the Drivers' and the Constructors Championships for Benetton

Drivers' Championships, and with Benetton's first Constructor's Championship ever in '95, Briatore was even spoken about in the same breath as racing guru Frank Williams. That Briatore was indeed familiar with the intricacies of F1 racing and was not just a street-smart-smooth-talking dude became evident when he put the present F1 scenario into perspective, "F1 is a show, an event, a lifestyle. We have this huge global audience of 300 million and we provide them with magic. That is where Bernie Eccelestone has done such a good job, because the success of it all is down to TV. There is a small percentage of the audience who understand the technology, but most people are just interested in whether Hill can beat Schumacher."

Briatore's problems began when the winning formula that Benetton had discovered and nurtured decided to shift allegiance. Though Schumacher decided to move on to Ferrari at the beginning of this season for a unprecedented salary which Benetton could certainly not afford, Briatore was not too ruffled, nor did he see this as an insult from the prodigy that he created. Briatore commented, "I respected his decision and I could see that he was motivated to go there. Ferrari would have been in very bad shape this year without Michael. It's a great move for him because if he wins, he's a God, and if he loses it's Ferrari's fault. We were sorry to see him go, but now we enjoy beating him."

After Schumacher's exit, the Benetton team recruited Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger, (ironically both are from Ferrari) to keep the show going. Though Berger and Alesi have so far managed to give Benetton the second place in the Constructor's Championship, no Benetton car had managed to take the chequered flag first till the Italian Grand Prix. Briatore had expected this and reasoned that this was because, "Gerhard and Jean had difficulty coping with us. They are coming from a very emotional set-up to a more professional one."

The man who almost singlehandedly made Benetton into a world beating combination and who has won the admiration of everyone involved in motor racing, is prepared to write off the '96 season as a period of learning and adjustment but promised of better things to come. As a businessman he has already envisaged the sweeping changes needed to keep the F1 show on the road.

That he was thinking miles ahead of the others was evident when he said, "the business has changed dramatically over the past few years, but a lot of people in Formula One has stayed in the past, and you cannot do that. This is more than sport or technology, it is a whole package—entertainment, lifestyle, glamour, everything. We have to go forward and that means pay-per-view television. We have invested a lot of money in this sport and it is time we got some back."

The logic behind Briatore calling for this sweeping change in introducing pay-per-view television for Formula One is again nosed in sheer business acumen. Consider this fact and you will understand that Briatore has a case in point: 80% of Benetton's income comes from sponsors and at the end of the season they just about manage to break even. The profits—if at all—are ploughed back into new facilities, research, machine upgradation and a growing wage bill for its employees. The case is similar to all the teams who race in Formula One.

Whether the F1A and the other teams agree to Briatore's call for reforms remains to be seen. But one thing is for sure — the most extrovert director in Formula One, the boss with a year round tan has certainly managed to make an impact in the celebrity-filled world of Formula One in a short tenure of only seven years.

But for Briatore handling the Benetton team is just another assignment that has to be done for his employer and dear friend. Friendship and not anything else is responsible for the passion that Briatore is associated with. Once he completes his job, that is taking Benetton to the top, Briatore plans to call it a day.

As Briatore commented, "If I leave F1 tomorrow, I won't go to the races any more. I might watch them on TV but I wouldn't go along. I think I would have more interesting things to do at the weekened than that."

Gardening, perhaps.

freewheeling

one came across in the last month was the invasion of the pitch by Pakistani spectators during the India-Pakistan Under-15 World Cup final. That was most tragic to see. How long are we going to carry on this hate for each other? How long are we going to be so intolerant that even if just kids of one country play a match against the other, people cannot bear it if the other team wins. I mean, we are fifty years past Independence and still the hatred continues.

What could have gone through the minds of the Indian batsmen when the Pakistani spectators raided the field, hurling abuse, in a terribly

and America. Where has all the liberal concepts that she imbibed in her education abroad, gone? She seems to have abandoned the great principles of life—tolerance, compassion, friendship, respect for other people's societies—at the altar of political expediency.

The problem with hatred is that no one gains anything from it. On the other hand, it consumes so much of energy and effort. Why, it even consumes our budget. Pakistan is such a poor country, yet it devotes 30% of its annual budget to defence. 30% is an extraordinarily high percentage to devote to defence.

And defence against whom? Not against Afghanisthan or the countries

leaders who talk peace and not war. We need leaders with vision! People who are smart enough to understand that there is more to be gained economically, politically, socially and culturally, when you extend a hand i friendship than when you extend a gun and point it at somebody.

The onus for this lies with the young people in both countries. As soon as the Thackerays and the Bhuttos start spewing forth abuse on Pakistan and India respectively, you must stand up and say, "Enough is enough. No more abuse. No more hatred. No more bloodshed. No mor cries for vengeance. Too many peopl have lost their lives. It's enough."

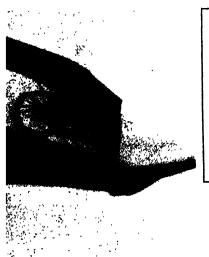
Because you have to understand the terrific power of hatred. It is an awesome force. It infects people like deadly virus. It enters the human system and eats up every fine quality it creates a fever of fanaticism. But when the fires of hatred die down, when you come back to your senses, you are then stunned at the havoc that hatred has caused in your societ and in other societies. Hatred has a way of possessing you, even consuming you, in the way that love never does, at least, not with such horrifying results.

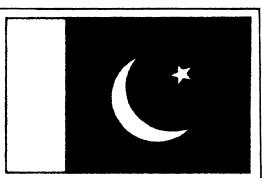
We have to deliberately choose lower hatred. As Martin Luther King said, "Love is the only force capable transforming an enemy into a friend All the young people in both the countries need to understand this. You must stand up against all those formenting hatred and shout at the top of your voices, "Stop it now."

We need release from the fires of hatred. All religions, whether Hinduism, Islam or Christianity has preached that love is the only way to peace. So, please, can we try love for change?

"Love is a state," said Bhagwan Rajneesh, "in which nobody is superior; in which both are fully aware that they are different, that their approach to life is different, that they think differently, and still—with all these differences—they love each other."

Shevlin Sebastian





The flags of India and Pakistan. Fifty years and a few wars later, the hatred between the two countries is intense, volatile and politicised. Will there ever come a time when we can play a cricket match against Pakistan and not burn with anger if we lose?

stupid act of childishness? Did they also develop hate for these Pakistani spectators? And what about these immature Pakistani spectators: did they feel that if their team lost an Under-15 final to India, in an island thousands of kilometres away, their own land would be dismembered? Are they so insecure as that?

You switch on Pakistan TV and you see the visage of Benazir Bhutto, her head covered by a soft, transparent white dupatta but her black eyes flashes hatred as she lashes out at India. And to think that this woman is highly educated; she has studied in some of the best colleges in England

of the Middle East or against the Russians. It's for defence against India. That's tragic. We are from the same gene pool; we were brothers and sisters once...

The history of the world has shown that hatred has always led to war and it has destroyed societies time and time again. (The devastation and subsequent dismemberment of Yugoslavia is the most recent example.) As Martin Luther King once said so accurately, "The old law of an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind."

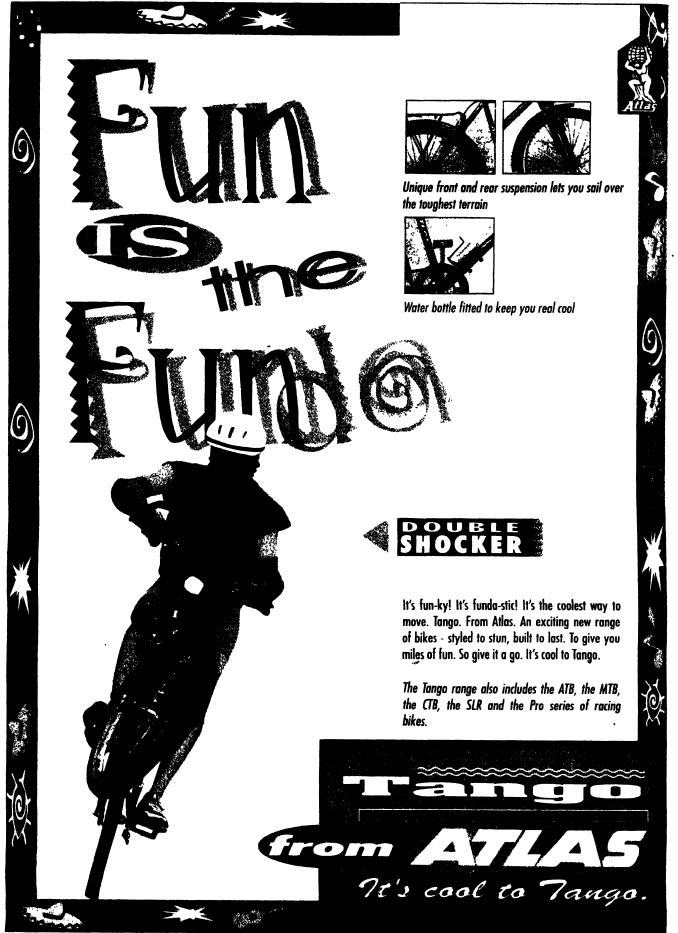
Both India and Pakistan have to mature as a people. For that, we need

OR SPECIAL MOMENTS



THE MILD ONE

CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH



TO THE DESIGNATION OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

MAY IOGO AGEI

Stefan Edberg exits, with his usual grace, from tennis

HIT LIST! WHY EVERYBODY HATES THE AUSSIE CRICKETERS

SANGEETA RANI PURI: INDIA'S 'HOTTFST' SWIMMER

Quite like any language, the grammar of engine care has its very own rules. Which enables the **SERVO** brand of over 400 lubricants to understand the dialect of virtually every engine type.

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Sports

4

4 !

RASHBE HARI DAS

COLORSPORT

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

Aravinda D'Silva is hungry for runs

14

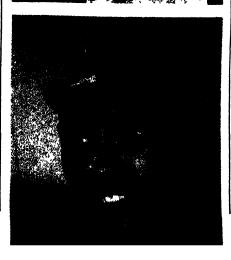
. AMAZING GRACE

Stefan Edberg is all set to retire from professional tennis

30

PAANI PURI!

Sangeeta Rani Puri is India's 'hottest' swimmer



10

WHY DOES EVERYBODY HATE THE AUSSIES?

24

TENNIS INDEX

28

FEATURE: ALEC STEWART

36

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL SECTION

48

PROFILE: SVETLANA MASTERKOVA

52

PROFILE: ROMESH KALUWITHARANA

54

PROFILE: MICHAEL SLATER

58

RESULTS: 'DEAR AZHAR' CONTEST!

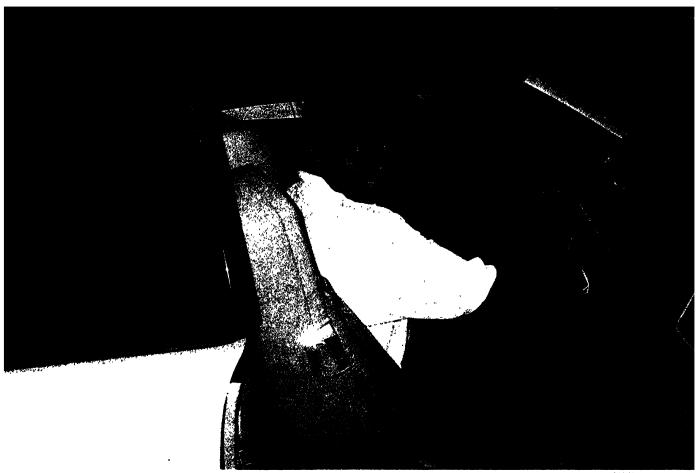
62

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF STEFAN EDBERG BY PROFESSIONAL SPORT. INSET PHOTOGRAPH OF ARAVINDA D'SILVA BY RASHBEHARI DAS



PHOTOGRAPHS 1 P SAHI

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

For bowlers all over the world, here's some bad news: Aravinda de Silva is hungry for runs and will stop at nothing to get them

ELMETS tend to render a batsman anonymous. But one cannot but help but 🐉 recognise Aravinda de Silva. Despite the armour protecting his head, with its peak tilted upwards, he swaggers to the crease. Then 'Mad Max', as de Silva is known proceeds to

serve notice. Within the first few deliveries he is dancing down the pitch to test the hands of cover, or pulling ferociously at a ball which, unlike the batsman, could scarcely be described as short.

; De Silva today has distinguished himself, face to face, one cannot help but be speechless at his engaging if discreet manner. His eyes sparkle and his words are soft and ponderous, retreshingly devoid of sporting cliches. De Silva himself is a man of few words, he prefers to let his bat do the talking.

De Silva's contribution to Sri Lankan cricket has been enormous.

La Frances

Prior to his season with Kent in 1995 he had the reputation of being a talented under-achiever. He was known as the batsman who possessed the skills of a genius but had not put them to the best use. To make matters worse, he had a poor tour of Australia just prior to the World Cup and was struggling for form and fitness when Sri Lanka's campaign for the Cup began.

De Silva knew as a senior player that he too was entrusted with the responsibility of winning the World Cup after the jolly jousting of Jayasuriya and pals earlier in the competition. "For us it was a personal triumph, to put alongside any in one-day cricket." To make a sparkling, unbeaten 100, take three wickets and hold two catches is as much as one man can do in any match.

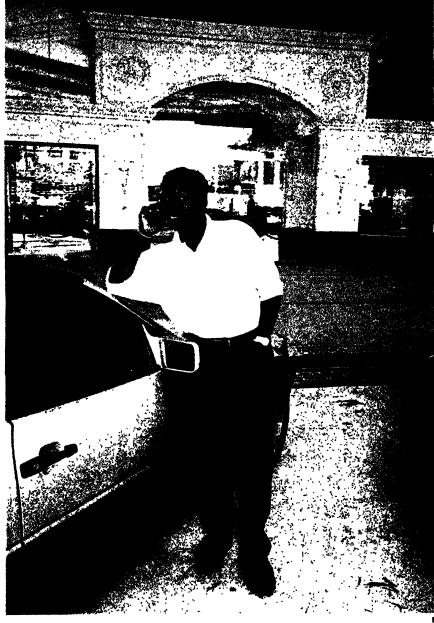
The pocket-sized dynamo who's living up to his sobriquet of 'Mad-Max' has done more to further the cause of Sri Lankan cricket in all nations than any board directive could ever have done. De Silva says, "we needed to show the world the tremendous potential which lay in our team. It was the lack of opportunity that kept us away from achieving glories. For the next three years everybody can call us the World Champions, at least in one day cricket."

In 1995 De Silva became the first Sri Lankan to brighten up the English summer for Kent. In London he launched a project called Cricket Fund 2000, which hopes to raise pound 250,000 to set up an academy in Sri Lanka and broaden the game's base. The island's new board president has said, "Sri Lankan cricket has already undergone sea changes after the World Cup triumph. It will surely have the best cricketing nation tag by the year 2000."

Aravinda was presented with his county contract in March 1995 when Sri Lanka was registering their first Test series victory overseas against New Zealand. It did not take him long

de Silva in his Mercedes C200. He loves speed and fast cars. Even his batting seems to suggest that he is in a hurry to decide: "Playing county cricket is something I had always wanted to do but it took me some time to settle down. Once the sun started shining, I began scoring lot of runs. It was really a good experience for me. In my mind I was prepared for bigger and tougher battles ahead. I began to realise and started thinking of my responsibilities in the World Cup ahead. I was raring to go. I got a century in the Benson & Hedges final at Lords and was accorded a standing ovation all the way from the crease, and felt the atmosphere very special."

He made his debut for Sri Lanka at Lords in 1984, and captained his country there against England in 1991. "I remember visiting England as a school boy cricketer of the year in 1979. There could have been no final incentive to emulate, than Vivian Richards' innings of 138 not out against England in that final." De Silva's attacking batting and useful off-spinners beg comparison with his all-time favourite player—Viv Richards, "It's very difficult to get close to him, but I really admire his attitude towards batting and it's



something I try to follow," he says, "If someone is capable of dominating the bowling, then they should. It's the way I've been playing since I was a youngster, and it's what I do most of the time."

De Silva's father, Sam ensured
Aravinda took up cricket. His mother
Indrani wanted him to play tennis
because it used up less study time.
However, batting became his
preoccupation from the age of nine.
"Thanks to a succession of coaches
—Charlie Warnakulasuriya, Wan
Silva, Walter Perera and the great
Ranjit Fernando, who represented Sri
Lanka from 1965-75", says Aravinda.
And according to Sam, the principal at
D.S. Senanayake College "was
sporting enough to replace the tiles on
his roof almost every week after

When we start reviewing the title of 'world's best batsman', Aravinda de Silva is a strong contender

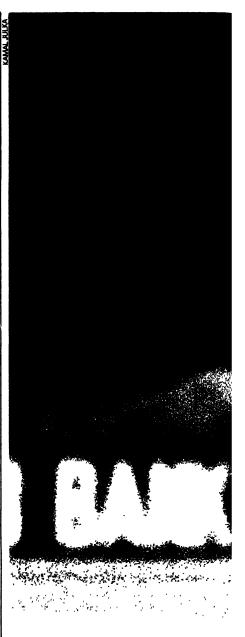
Sri Lanka's cricketing fortunes revolve a lot around de Silva's performance with the bat

Aravinda's sixes."

He is perhaps the only player in Test history to have reached the century landmark by hitting a six on three occasions, including his maiden Test hundred. That says something about his attitude towards batting which transcends the pressures of the Test arena. I'm not a person who looks at statistics. They bring the field in when you reach your 90s to stop the runs, so if you get a loose one you hit it away. I don't think you should worry about getting out in the 90s. You just play your normal game."

Aravinda says his height (5 ft. 4 inches.) can be an advantage because bowlers find it hard to bowl in the right place. He is an excellent judge of length and McDermott maintains the strongest feature of Aravinda's batting







is how intensely he watches the ball. He has adjusted his play to suit all conditions and ever since the World Cup he has been among runs.

During the Singer Cup of 1996 runs kept coming like an avalanche off his bat. With scores of 75 not out, to follow up with 49 not out, 83 not out, 127 not out, De Silva finished with 334 runs without being dismissed and was rightly adjudged the player of the series with a KIA Sportage Jeep. "It



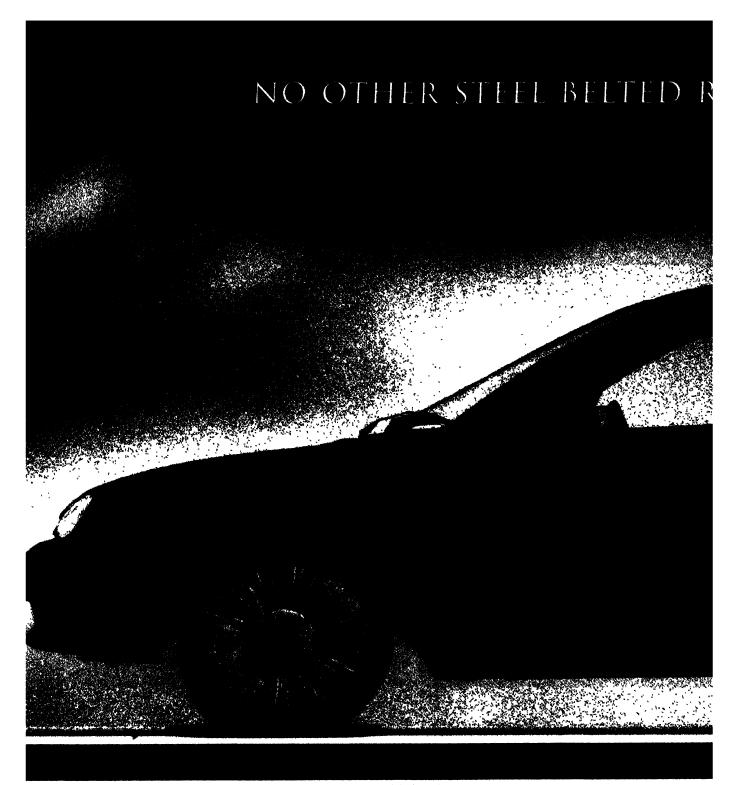
has been one of my dream runs," says the mighty Lankan, "In the final I was nearly being victimised for a rash shot but then things kept ticking for me and for the team."

In a gentle paradox he combines the vagaries of flair with the responsibility of one who sets examples. This is the man who admires Viv Richards, but also loves to watch Pete Sampras and Steve Davis—just as he blends his passion for driving fast cars and his

insistence on being "very much a single man", with his work for young Sri Lankan cricketers in conjunction with his sponsors, Coca Cola, Singer and his devotion to family and relegious practices.

So what's next for Aravinda?
Perhaps he'll manage to procure a
BMW for himself during the next
tournament. The car fanatic in him
was thrilled with the KIA Sportage. On
the teeming roads of Sri Lanka de

Silva's cars are easily identifiable. He squeezes his Mercedes C200, or his Mazda RX7 or his Mitsubishi Pajero jeep in between buses and rickshaws. His favourite journey, with good reason, is the Coast Road South from Colombo, a full day's drive down to Yala Ceame Park. And beneath everything lies a fun-loving, happy and quiet person. For sure, Sri Lankan cricket cannot hope to find a more charming and talented champion.



The car you see is the 1996 Chrysler Neon. The tyres you don't are Goodyear GPS 2 steel belted radials.

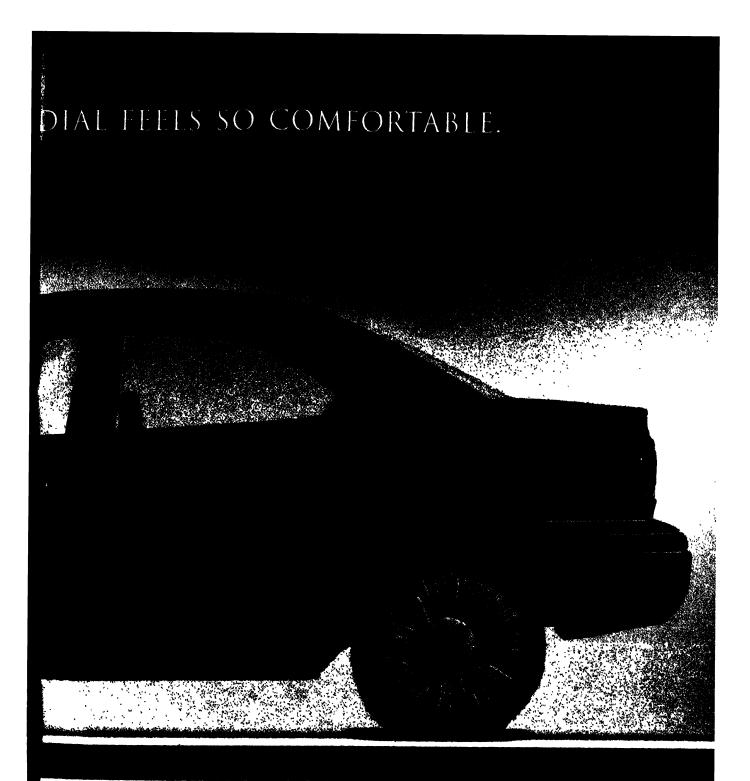
INTRODUCING THE GPS 2. Ride it and you won't believe a steel belted radial so tough, can cushion you in such comfort.

INTERNATIONAL FAVOURITE. It's advanced Goodyear technology that has made the GPS 2 original equipment for

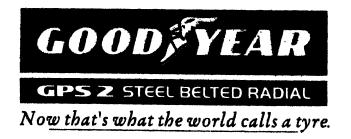
some of the world's best cars. Like the Ford Fiesta, Chry:

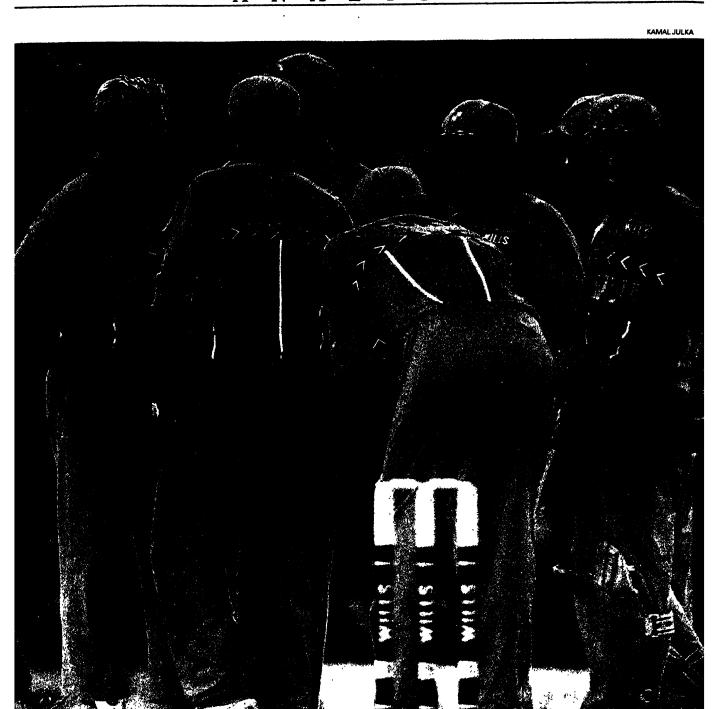
Neon, Toyota Corolla, Volkswagen Golf, Alfa Romeo, I

Punto and Opel Astra. Technology that improves handl
and mileage, while reducing aquaplaning and road noise.



Now your Maruti, Cielo or Contessa can ride the tyre that's preferred by millions across the world. It'll be far more comfortable than anything you can imagine. Unless, of course, you figure out how to upholster roads.





'UGLY' AUSSIES!

There is a growing opinion in world sport today: the Aussies are not as sporting as they claim to be. ANDY O'BRIEN, writing from Australia, presents a balanced case study

T was just a training session for the Australian rugby union team-known as the thing was that they were to meet the best rugby team in the world—the New Zealand All-Blacks in two days time for a place in the final of the three nation championships. The other thing unusual about the session was that by the end of it, the Wallabies had two injured men in their ranks. Injured, because the two of them actually went for each other during the practise and were hurt in a punch up among themselves. Even more strange was the fact that one of them was the petite scrum half George Gregen: the Golaith at the receiving end of the fifth was the 'prop' of the team who weighed over a hundred kilograms.

Two days later when the Wallabies did take the field against the all-conquering All Blacks, they did what no other team has done in the history of the game. They turned their backs when the Blacks did their customary and now world famous hakka war dance, which throws down the traditional challenge to the opposition. Needless to say, Kiwi national pride was hurt. The Aussies said they had their "own thing to do." What you may ask is the point of these two examples? Well simply this: that's how the Aussies do it. Whether it be against themselves or anyone else, there's only one way the Aussies know how to play, (and drink): hard.

This by no means justifies some of the things their sporting personalities have done around the world, though it may go some distance towards explaining why they did so. The label of the "ugly Australians"; which Ian Chappell's cricket team won for the nation has stuck over the years, even though most Australians (and that includes the former Test captain) will tell you that the label is unjustified. Yet every time an Australian sportsman, especially a cricketer, indulges in poor behaviour, the term

Winning ugly? The killer instinct is never in short supply with an Australian cricketer and that is why they are often accused of gamesmanship 'unsporting' always seems to crop up. The recent incidents in Sri Lanka involving Steve Waugh (in particular) the stand-in captain Ian Healy and the rest of his team (in general), have brought the phrase to the fore once again.

There is no justification for a man who has played 200 one day internationals and who is been talked about as a future captain to do what Steve Waugh did in that game against India in Sri Lanka. But perhaps the pretournament media hype built around the Aussic-Sri Lanka cricket tensions blew things up a little out of proportion in the end. Perhap s the Waugh incident was a case of making a mountain out of a molehill, mainly because of the prevailing circumstances and tensions.

As one Australian cricket writer reported from Sri Lanka: "Given his illustrous record in the game and the relatively minor nature of his alleged breaches over a series of wide calls, Waugh would normally have little more than just that to worry about." But apart from the obvious media over-hype, what one must also keep in mind is that tournament referee John Reid had issued a stern warning to all four competing captains before the tournament, that "sterner measures"were in order because lines and reprimands were "clearly not working." Clearly therefore the older Waugh and the Aussie vice captain was lucky to get away with a light sentence.

To come back to the Aussie attitude to sport and to use the Waugh brothers as an example, both of them maintain that they don't see each other as brothers when they play for Australia, but just as team mates who have a job to do.

Winning mates has never been any Australian sportsman's priority during a game, certainly not ahead of winning matches. And yet Sunil Gavaskar will perhaps agree with me (and he's had quite a few pow-wows with Aussies in his time) that they make great mates off the field. Ian Chappell, who once justified 'mooning' (showing his bare buttocks) the selectors from the

centre of the field, with the excuse that he was merely settling his "box", is now one of Gavaskar's best buddies.

And yet there is the other side of the argument. That is put forward by Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and one that has caused much tension between the two teams in the last year or so: why be good mates and share a beer with the opposition who do not respect you on the field? Good point. And yet any Aussie worth his Fosters will expect you to do precisely that after he has played his heart out and in the process even offended you. To him that was just a part of the game. Just as people on the sub continent ought to understand this trait in the Australian character just as the Aussie should take in to account that people from the sub continent are a shade more emotional and therefore, do not see much of a difference between gamesmanship and sportsmanship. Maybe, just maybe, that is precisely why sportspersons from the sub continent are said to lack the killer instinct. Just as the same logic explains why the Aussie cricketer has such a bad image. Perhaps it's all a question about drawing the line between gamesmanship and sportsmanship. The Aussies, according to many, stretch it a little further than others.

The Australian sports fan (and mind you every Aussie regardless of age, sex, race and colour, is a die hard sports fan) will probably point to this competitive attitude as the reason why they, as a nation with such a tiny population, are so successful in sport. With 47 medals at the Atlanta Olympic Games and with a population of 17 million Australia was, per capita, by far the most successul nation at the Atlanta Olympics. And if you look around and see then you will find them everywhere: cricket, hockey, tennis, rugby, rowing, swimming and every other watersport and even soccer. Perhaps there is a lesson in competitiveness we can learn from them, just as they can take a tip or two in politeness from us.

But being aggressive is just the way



of life for the Aussie. They are willing to do their best, even though at the end of it all they would have to "cop a bit" of flak for their actions. They reckon it's worth their while and as long as other teams allow them to get away with it, they will continue to use it to their advantage.

Arjuna Ranatunga banned his boys from having a beer with the Aussie cricketers after a game. That's his point of view. But Steve Waugh sees the other side of the coin. He feels that it is *that* decision by the Sri Lankan captain which has led to the tensions between the two teams. Choose

which side of the fence you want to sit on in the ensuing debate.

But perhaps what you must keep in mind before you take sides is the difference between the two cultures. We come from a rather more timid almost submissive culture, whereas



ne Aussie is perhaps best illustrated y his favourite sport: Aussie rules notball; the most aggressive and hysical sport in the world, in which nere is only one rule and that is there are no rules."

Perhaps it would be apt to recall hat Ian Botham said when

questioned during his recent libel court case against Imran Khan. Botham was asked he took Imran's accusations so seriously when a former Australian cricketer had said the same thing about ball tampering in his book. Botham replied "that's because he's an Aussie and I don't

The Aussies certainly play hard and play to win. If others don't like that... they don't care

take anything any Aussie says seriously."

If that is the moral of this article then hold on! Botham didn't quite know what he was asking for. His comments gave every radio station and television show across Australia permission to say what they wanted about Botham. And since he didn't care what the Aussies said about him, they let him have it and most of the things they said are unprintable.

Which brings me back to my point of letting people get away with things. There is no use for cricketers on the sub-continent to debate whether or not the Australian cricketers are "ugly" or not. The object should be how to counter them both mentally and in skill. Obviously the Sri Lankans have had a change of attitude with regard to handling the Australians in the last two years. And obviously that has had an effect on their results against the Australian team recently. The Aussies claimed the Lahore World Cup final to be a one off thing and that they would beat the new world champions nine times out of ten. The score so far is 3-0 in the Lankans' favour and this simply because they have become one of the most aggressive teams in the world and give as good as they get. There's nothing wrong with that, So let's forget accusations like "ugly Australians" and try and find our own solutions.

One thought which could do a lot of good to international cricket, is that the Australian tour of India takes place in the best of spirit and brings forth more good cricket and less of the tension which is mostly media-built. After all, let us remember that the one off Test in New Delhi between the two teams will be played for the new Border-Gavaskar Trophy. And what better way to honour these two great cricketers and superb human beings than by playing the game as they did. Anything less than that would do dishonour to their name and their game.

AMAZING GRACE That is what Stefan Edberg will be remembered for. He will also be praised for the beauty of his tennis

BY ROBIN CHATTERJEE





occasionally white. Married the

daughter Emily by her.

woman. Annette Olsen, he dated

('you cannot be serious') and has a

He can be seen seriously studying

Stefan Edberg was grace personified till his final grand slam. Inset: few players can compete with Edberg's perfect style of play

the stock listings of a newspaper as often as he can be found taking in the latest hatchet job done on Andre Agassi. A journalist once claimed that he saw Edberg, who has won over \$20 million in career prize money, bend over and pick up a one franc coin he found on the ground at Roland Garros. Edberg has always been a very careful human being. It is a fitting summation of his character and it extends right up to the way he handles his finances.

So how do you sum up Stefan Edberg?

Try it this way: spell E.D.B.E.R.G. Now spell this: N.I.C.E.

Now tell yourself that you'll be sad to see him go.

Stefan Edberg, unlike most tennis players in the Nineties, has never done anything purely as a catalyst to be written about. In all the years, since he made his debut as a pro in 1982, he has never felt the need to chop and change his character, whether it be for personal or commercial reasons. What is even more commendable is that Edberg remained this way right down to the day when he played in the final grand slam of his career, bowing out gracefully in the quarter finals of the US Open.

Displaying emotion of any sort was never a Edberg trademark. And right till the day he made his final goodbye to the crowds in Flushing Meadows, he maintained a strong link with his dignity. Edberg was almost always undisturbed by the headlines, if there were any about him. But for a man who spoke little, the Swede's tennis made very pertinent statements...

...like, for example, he is the sole survivor of the 1984 Davis Cup team that beat the powerful United States 4-1 in the finals. Moreover, Edberg had been a survivor: winning six grand slam titles over a span of eight years between 1985 and 1992 when he won his second successive US Open. But the greatest testimony to Edberg's talents has been the fact that

he has stayed inside the top five in the world for almost a decade.

As for making a judgement on his tennis, there will be one unanimous opinion all over the world: no onenot even John McEnroe or Boris Becker could look so pretty while in the process of serve and volleying. Ever tried throwing some wine on silk? Do it, and watch how it glides smoothly over the surface. Stefan Edberg was a classicist, a poet. No one in his generation has even approached his technique or levels of competence in the field of serve and volley. There could be a way, however, clippings of Stefan Edberg matches should be stored away in the archives.

But ambitions dim and standards drop. The Stefan Edberg that one got to witness over the last two years looked as if he had opted to get into a witness protection programme. He looked helpless and mortal: the mob was closing in on him. First round defeats became a rule rather than an exception. All of a sudden it looked as though his opponents had all the firepower. Edberg had wrinkles. The fire that burnt inside the ice cold Swede had been extinguished. The champion was now playing from memory.

Edberg knew, as did his critics that the end was approaching. He accepted it with a quiet grace and decided that where ambition would end, dignity would take over. He announced that 1996 was going to be his farewell year in professional tennis. The peerless competitor would gradually fade away into the horizon.

So how does one sum up a man, who presented us with so many moments of *blissful* tennis. Edberg's style of play was an art form which seems to have become extinct in the age of nuclear tennis. There have been debates which ranged for years on end, the theme being that Edberg's serve and volley was a misnomer. It would be uneffective for all occasions. Moreover, Edberg hardly ever put on a game face. And his forehand? Terrible. And this man was a champion?

If you want proof, then let me distil



Being a soft person did not mean that Edberg couldn't rise above pressure

it for you into three occasions: In the All England club in 1990, Edberg was two sets to love up to his arch-rival and childhood friend, Boris Becker. Becker, who regards Wimbledon as part of his real estate fought back to two sets all. It took all of Edberg's fighting qualities and character to fight back and win the final.

Jim Courier had just one chance to break Edberg in the US Open final of

1991. For once in the match, Courier read the Swede's serve and unleashed a forehand, that had the ball screaming 'pressure', towards Edberg The Swede adjusted his racket just a fraction, loosened his wrists and angled a volley just an inch before the sidelines. Courier knew then that he was in the power of a special force. He lost the match 6-1, 6-1, 6-0.

Stick around in Flushing Meadow. It is the year 1992 and in three consecutive matches Edberg has beer a break down in the final set in the



ACTION PLUS

defence of his title. The Swede managed to come through each time, the climax coming when he survived a 5 hour, 26 minute semi-final against Michael Chang. The final against Pete Sampras turned out to be routine. With a little bit of prodding from his coach, Tony Pickard, Edberg managed to treat himself to a little smile.

Stefan Edberg will probably be the same person as he was when he played tennis. One can still walk past him in the lobby of a hotel and not realise who he is, till the lift door has

In his last year as pro, resilience had become the hallmark of Edberg's tennis

closed. One can still request him to grant an interview, instead of having to go through the agents and managers that most tennis players employ today. Edberg will say 'yes' or 'no' himself.

Resilience has become Stefan Edberg's hallmark in his last year as a pro. Inspite of the way he has performed, which, in his own summation, has not been too good, Edberg has never been treated as a pushover by the rest of the pack. And such a feeling can only arise out of respect for a great champion. A man who never ruffled any feathers. A man who according to his coach Pickard was almost, always "exceptionally nice."

Sure Edberg was nice. But over and above all, he was terribly modest. Modesty sitting atop prize money of \$20 million. Now that's a quality which has become rare in sport today. Just as Edberg will be.

SWEDE OF STOICISM

STEFAN EDBERG is in his last year as a tennis pro. As retirement is imminent, and as other priorities take over, he shares his thoughts with PAUL FEIN in an exclusive interview

"For it is always to be remembered that tennis and good sportsmanship have been, are, and will be synonymous," wrote Bill Tilden 75 years ago.

While the winning-is-everything ethic has occasionally trampled tennis' unwritten sporting code, Stefan Edberg reaffirmed that nice guys can indeed still finish first. The popular Swedish champion twice captured singles titles at Wimbledon and the Australian and United States Opens. But his most extraordinary achievement and inspiring legacy is winning the ATP's sportsmanship award for five straight years. In recognition, the ATP renamed it the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award.

Edberg, 30, concludes his storied career at the Stockholm Open in October where he will receive honors and gifts just as he has at every tournament he has played during his farewell year.

In this interview the handsome, mild-mannered Edberg talks about his most thrilling successes and biggest disappointments, Sweden's "Golden Era" of tennis, how he maintained his moral values and down-to-earth persona despite being rich and famous, and his plans after retiring from the pro tour.

You've won six Grand Slam singles and three Grand Slam doubles titles. Which one are you most proud of?

Winning Wimbledon the first time in 1988 because winning Wimbledon is the dream of nearly every tennis player.

When asked what ingredient all champions have, Pancho Gonzalez replied, "Sacrifice.

Giving up enjoyment of life for the sake of practice." Do you agree?

Not totally. But you have to give up a lot of things because you have to live with tennis in your mind 24 hours a day. It is a lot of hard work. But you still need to enjoy life. Otherwise, the hard work gets to be too much.

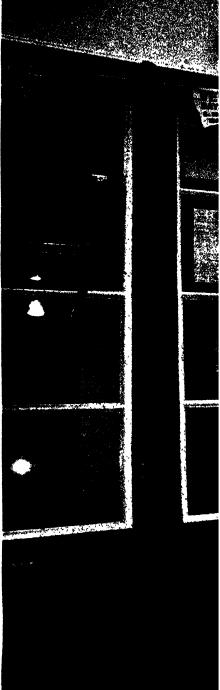
Unlike some stars, you never became a prima donna. Was this chiefly because of your Swedish background and being the son of a police detective?

No. The most important thing for me—while playing tennis and being on the tour—has always been being myself, behaving in a good way and trying to be a sportsman. It's something that has come naturally. It's nothing that I really worked on. I've tried to be fair to a lot of people. That's a winning way in the long run.

During your farewell year the ATP named its annual sportsmanship award after you, and the name of the indoor arena in Bastad, Sweden, has been changed to Edberg Hall. Please tell me what these awards and honors have meant to you.

It's quite an accomplishment, having the sportsmanship award named after me. I'm only 30 years old. That really took me by surprise. It's something that I'm proud of and something that I feel in my heart. Naming a hall in Bastad after me was also a very nice thing. I think I've done a lot for Swedish tennis. I've put some money into a foundation. That's also an honor.

One of the best sportsmen in tennis, Edberg remains an anachronism in today's tennis circuit



PHOTOGRAPHS PROFESSIONAL SPORT

You never won the French Open. Was your five-set loss to Michael Chang in the 1989 final at Roland Garros the most disappointing defeat in your career?

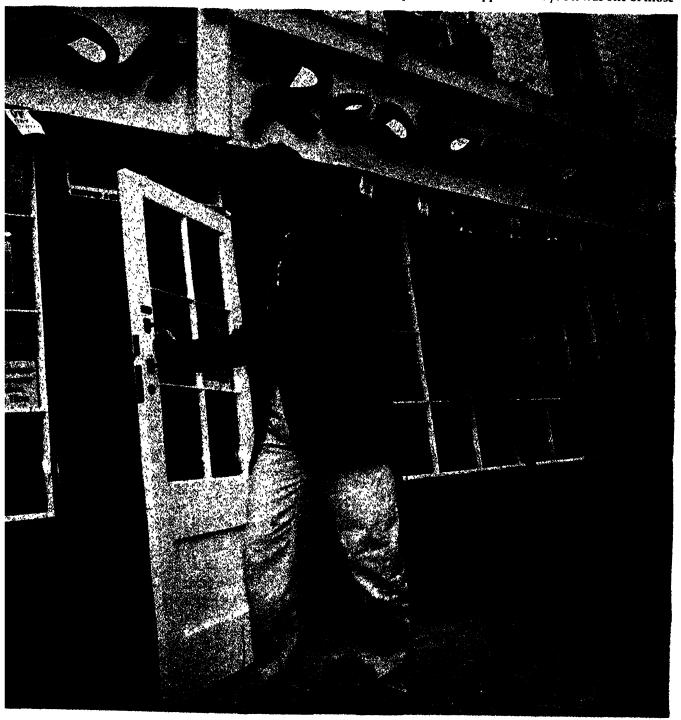
It probably was when I look back. It was a great match. I think we both played well. I would have liked to have replayed a couple of big points in

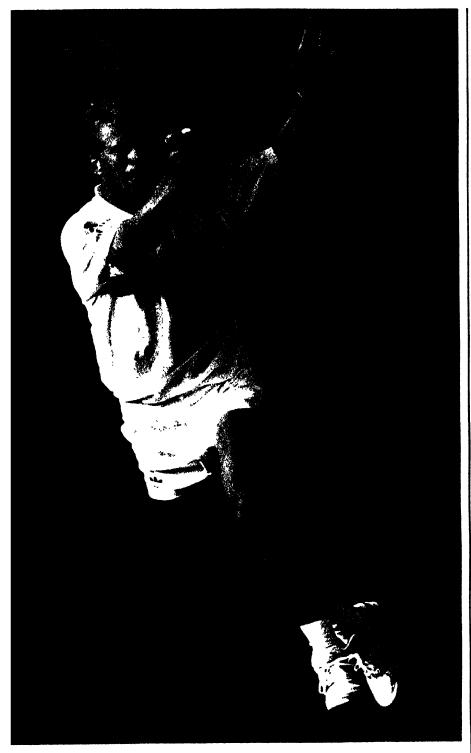
that match. It was a great opportunity, but I never did it. As a serve-and-volleyer, you don't get many chances to win the French. And that was my chance.

In the mid-and late-1980s, Sweden dominated men's pro tennis with Wilander, Jarryd, Nystrom, Sundstrom and you.

How do you explain this "Golden Era" for Sweden, a country of only 8 million people? And will it ever happen again?

First, I don't think it will ever happen again. It's quite astonishing for a little country to come up with that many top tennis players. Even today, I don't know exactly how it happened. Maybe it was one of those





fluke things. We got into training probably a little harder than everybody else. We came from good backgrounds, and we worked together a lot. It's really difficult to answer that question. A lot of other countries looked closer at what we did in Sweden—how we worked in

the clubs and at the federation level-and copied what we did and added things. So they have caught up. So, if Sweden can have one top 10 player over the next 10 years, that's a good effort.

If you are looking for sheer poetry in tennis you do not have to look beyond Edberg

times during your career, and your victories were vital in three Cup finals-in 1984 over the U.S., in 1985 over West Germany, and in 1994 over Russia. Which of these Cup triumphs meant the most to you? And why?

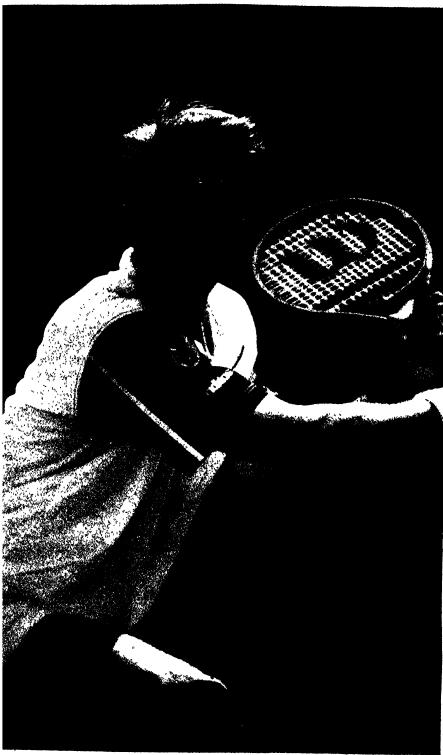
Back in '84 I was a rookie playing Davis Cup. To beat the Americans that had their best team with McEnroe and Connors, and to beat them at home in front of a home crowd was a special thing. Because it was really the first time that the group of us—Wilander, Sundstrom, Jarryd and me--won the Davis Cup. Borg did it for Sweden in '75. But our first time was very special, it was such a great atmosphere in Gothenburg. And even the second time was great, too.

When you first started playing Davis Cup, players received little or no payment for playing for their country. Last year Boris **Becker and Michael Stich** demanded and received \$1.85 million for playing. Should players be heavily compensated, or should they simply be honored to represent their nation in Davis Cup competition?

The market does decide it a little bit. From a Swedish point of view, we are a poor tennis federation. And even today, if we win the Davis Cup, I'll make roughly \$40,000 for the year. That, of course, is not a lot of money for all those [four] weeks. But I feel proud playing for my country. You have to make some sacrifices along the line. What Becker and Stich received sounds a bit much to me, but tennis is a business today, too.

Bjorn Borg recently said that Thomas Enqvist "has a great chance at being the next No. 1." Do you agree?

In order for Thomas to be No. 1, he needs to improve quite a few things. He has the potential to be a top 5. But it takes something very special to get to Sweden won the Davis Cup four No. 1. He has one really good game



Now that Edberg has left the rigours of the tennis world behind him, he is all set to spend more time with his family

today, but when that game doesn't work, he has problems. He's still a little bit too inconsistent. He needs to improve the way he moves into the ball and the way he charges into the

net. If he can do that, then he does have a chance to be No. 1.

You are extremely popular in Japan. Why do you think they like you so much? And what have you liked most about Japan?

I have a history of being successful

when I've played in Japan. I've always . felt comfortable there because I've always had a lot of fans and people have been really nice and treated me really well. Why have I been so popular? Maybe it's because I'm so laid-back and a sportsman model for them. I'm blond—that helps, too. There are a lot of things. They just have taken a liking to me.

You have played against many of the superstars of the Open Era—McEnroe, Connors, Becker, Lendl, Wilander and Sampras. How would you rate them in order of their greatness?

All the champions from different eras are great players. Like many other sports, tennis progresses. Tennis today is better than it was before. If you look at all the players, I think Pete Sampras is the most complete player ever.

Some writers still question whether tennis belongs in the Olympic Games. You won the singles gold medal when tennis was an exhibition sport in 1984 in Los Angeles; you captured two bronze medals in Seoul in 1988; and you carried the flag for Sweden in the opening ceremonies at Barcelona in 1992. Where do you stand on this issue?

It's a very good question. I've been lucky enough to play in three Olympics. We've had a trial period for a couple of Olympics. Tennis hasn't fully supported the Olympics because all the best [men] players have not participated. In order for tennis at the Olympics to succeed, you need all the players to play and a big-name player to win. This did happen this year when Agassi won for his country. When he said how important winning a gold medal is—comparable to winning a Grand Slam title—that can have a very positive effect on the Olympics. By the next Olympics, we'll know whether tennis belongs or not.

In 1994 you said: "The game needs personalities. Otherwise, it would be boring. Agassi has his style....A guy like McEnroe, you either loved him or you hated him—and that was good." Do you think you are a personality?

In a way, I have turned into being myself. From what I have heard, people are always giving me a lot of credit for being a sportsman. The way that I played my tennis, it took me a lot longer to create an image. I do think I have some sort of personality. It's not as strong as Agassi or McEnroe because they're special guys.

Tony Pickard, your coach for 10 years, once said: "No one will really know Stefan outside his wife, his family and, I suppose, me. But he is a special type of man." What do you think Pickard meant by that?

He's one of the few people who know me. Travelling around the circuit, you are better off with a few really, really good friends than having lots of friends because it's a tough world. And that's been my style, keeping myself close to only a few people. And that's just the way I am.

Your volley is widely acclaimed as the best in tennis during the past 10 years. What advice would you offer young tournament players eager to improve their volleying and net game?

It's like all things—it takes lots of practice and determination. In order to play serve and volley today, you need to be very athletic and very strong because it's very demanding. It also helps to study a few top serve-and-volley players and see what they do. A lot of it has to do with quickness, seeing the ball quickly and timing \bar{n} right.

Though he resides in Britain, Edberg has always answered the Davis Cup call for Sweden. Picture shows Swedish supporters jubilating after the '89 Davis Cup final Your Open Era record of playing in 53 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments is amazing and may never be broken. How were you able to achieve this "iron man" feat?

I hadn't really thought about it unt reporters brought it up the last couple of years. It takes a lot of hard work an lots of luck, too. You do get injuries, you do have problems. It just hasn't occurred during those [Grand Slam event] periods, although there have been some close calls. I also feel that i you're a top player you should try to play all the Grand Slams, whether or not you're good on a given surface because you can always learn. They are the bread and butter of tennis.

John Barrett, a 1950s British Davis Cupper and now a BBC-TV tennis analyst, has warned: "Today power is all. Subtlety, finesse, tactical awareness—all



those things that made tennis a three-dimensional delight—are, at best, only fleetingly observed. Power has killed the artist. There will never be another Santana, Larsen, Pietrangeli, Nastase or McEnroe to delight us with their chessboard skills." Do you agree with Barrett that too much power has made men's tennis less interesting and entertaining?

I don't agree with everything he said. In order to be a top professional today you do need the power. Without it you're not going to succeed. But you still see a lot of finesse from the best players around the net and the way they move on the court. The game is so much faster today. I still think we see fabulous tennis on hard courts and on clay courts. What has lost some of its appeal is grass court tennis and indoor tennis where the [powerful] serves have taken over some of the matches. That's really where the problem is. But I do agree that overall there is less chance for the touch players because there is so little time to do anything.

When you retire, what do you think you'll miss most about life on the pro tour.?

Being out there on the Center Court with all those people cheering for you and being part of the circuit and all the excitement.

What do you think you will miss least?

A lot of the travel. And it's very hard to have a social life on the tour. It's very hard to keep in touch with your friends. Sometimes it's a little lonely. So that's what I won't miss.

When you retire from the tour, what do you plan to do? And where do you plan to live?

I will stay involved in tennis with my foundation (that promotes junior tennis in Sweden) and do some work with some companies. As of now, I plan to continue living in London.

Nearly every top player in the Open Era has been involved in



Edberg with Tony Pickard: Friend, mentor and coach

controversies during their careers. How would you explain your avoiding controversy completely?

Being diplomatic helps. I think before I say anything. I've led a pretty clean life, no scandals or anything like that.

Even though you appear unemotional, in Eliot Berry's book *Tough Draw*, you said: "Tennis is more emotionally draining than people think. Therefore you must not burn all your feelings privately or talk them away publicly." What did you mean?

Everybody has the fire; some people show it more than others do. Without the fire, you haven't got a chance to succeed. Some people, like me, have a harder time showing it. The best way for me is not to let my emotions out and just stay focused on what I'm doing. In tennis there is actually a lot of time to think because you always have 20 to 25 seconds between points. The challenge is to keep distraction out of your mind because you need to concentrate so completely on what you're doing. When you're thinking about the next shot, you don't want to think about private things.

Of all the major political issues in the tennis world, is there one issue or policy that you feel strongly about?

I'll pass on that one! That's why I don't get involved in any controversies.

You are highly intelligent and fair-minded. Do you ever regret not being involved in the important area of tennis politics?

Not really because being at the top for so many years, you need to look after yourself more than anyone else. Tennis is a very selfish game. Being part of the political scene is quite tough because it's difficult to make changes. I'd rather stay out of it.

You've said, "I think ordinary people are much more happy than the jetset and celebrity people." Why is that true? And is this why you tried to stay ordinary despite being rich and famous?

My point was that it is sometimes very hard to be in such a demanding world where people want you here and want you there. It's sort of nice for a while, but it also can be tiring. It depends on what values you have in life. It still comes down to family values. That's what is really important in life. That's where you get a lot of satisfaction.

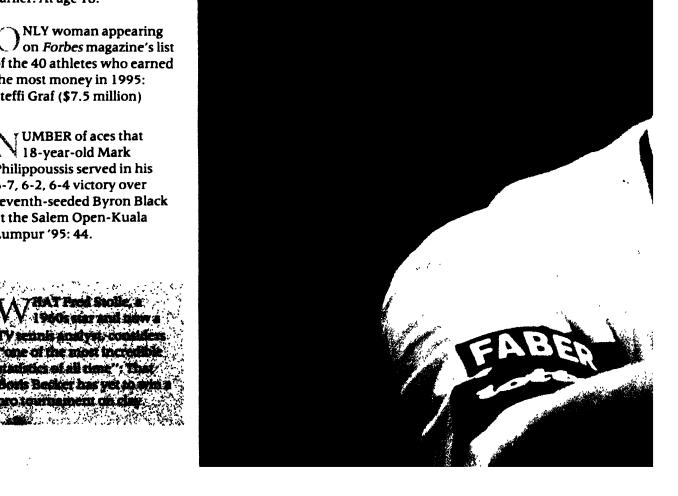
W HAT longtime friend Ion Tiriac wrote in a fax to Ilie Nastase when he heard a (false) rumor that Nastase was ill: "Nastase, if you are still alive, congratulations. If you are dead, good-bye. Tiriac."

HEN Andre Agassi thinks he would have been No. 1 in the world if Brad Gilbert had been his coach earlier: At age 18.

NLY woman appearing on Forbes magazine's list of the 40 athletes who earned the most money in 1995: Steffi Graf (\$7.5 million)

YUMBER of aces that 18-year-old Mark Philippoussis served in his 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 victory over seventh-seeded Byron Black at the Salem Open-Kuala Lumpur '95: 44.

"one of the most incredib statistics of all time"; That Books Besker has yet to win pro tournament on clay.









TUMBER of overheads Billie Jean King hit a day to prepare for her celebrated 1973 "Battle of the Sexes" match against Bobby Riggs: 350.

TUMBER of singles matches that unranked T.J. Middleton had played at the ATP Tour or Challenger level in the 3 1/2 years before he qualified at the 1995 event in St. Petersburg, Russia, and upset No. 2 seeded Thomas Muster in the first round: 0.

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A International De Soutien
Monica Seles (International
Committee of Support to
Monica Seles): Miss Aurelia
Messales, 114 rue Robert
Leuthreau, 91600 Savigny
sur Orge, France.

MOUNT of space Richard Evans devoted in his biography of John McEnroe to an explanation of how and why John and his family failed to attend the traditional champions' dinner at the 1981 Wimbledon: A whole chapter.

ARY JOE FERNANDEZ's goal for 1996: If not to beat Steffi Graf, then at least to play more like her.





ONTENTS of "The Official Also-Known-As Agassi Lookalike Kit" that Nike is selling: A strap-on goatee and sideburns, a bandana and hoop earrings.

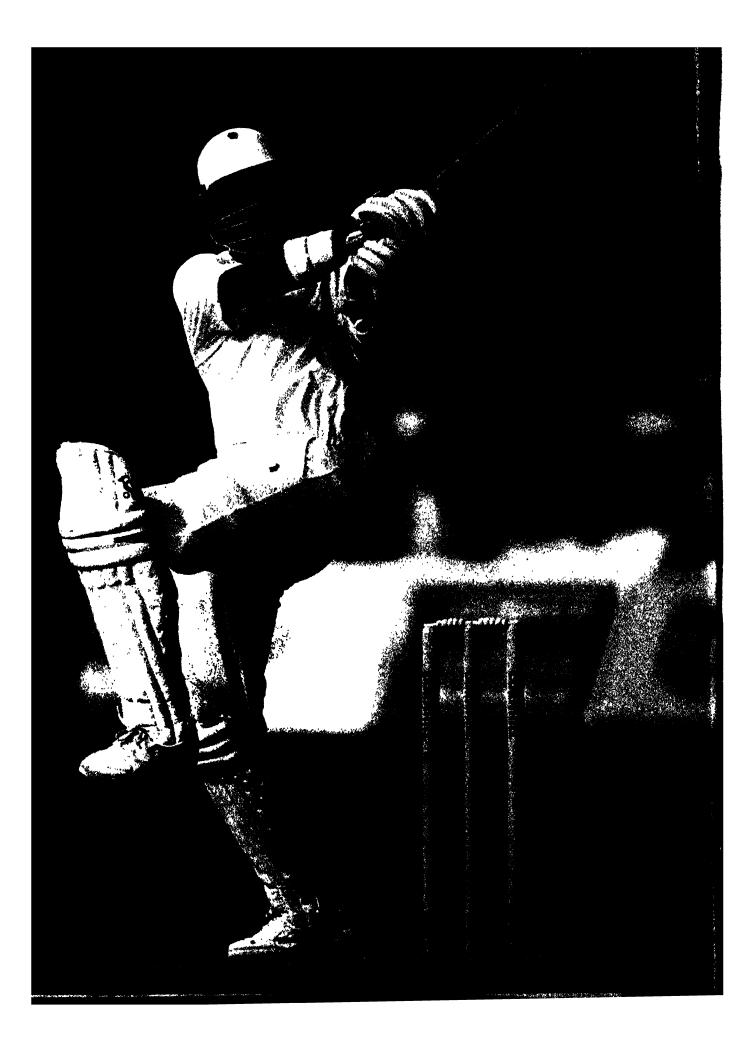
T UMBER of consecutive points that Andre Agassi won during one stretch in his 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 victory over Pete Sampras at the 1995 Lipton Championships: 19.

WHAT Andrei
What Chesnokov received from Russian president Boris
Yeltsin after staving off nine match points to upset Michael
Stich 14-12 in the fifth set of the deciding match in Russia's
Davis Cup victory over
Germany: The prestigious
Order of Courage award which is usually reserved for military heroes.

MOUNT of money that No.89-ranked Michael Joyce, an American, estimates that his father spent on lessons, court time, equipment and travel during his junior career: \$250,000.

Land ENGTH of the tee shot that tennis super server Mark Philippoussis smashed while playing golf at Indian Wells, California: More than 360 yards.

Compiled by Paul Fein



TECHNICAL PROBLEM

That's what England's batsman ALEC STEWART was going through. He's patched it up and is now back amongst the runs

AYMOND ILLINGWORTH, for all his fits of madness must be smiling these days.

The reason? Alec Stewart has returned to form and Illingworth, no doubt, would love to take the credit for all this and more.

Alec Stewart himself is doing a fair bit of laughing these days but he is more careful. This is because he has learnt to put his confident scores against India and Pakistan into perspective. Added to that is the fact that there is a very thin line between success and failure. A couple of bad cnocks and his numerous fifties against Pakistan as well as his nonumental 170 against the same eam would be relegated into the packground of people's memories.

Over and above all the high scores, nowever, has been the fact that Alec Stewart has discovered in him the races of grit and character. To be sure, t takes grit to stand up to two of the nost talented fast bowlers in contemporary cricket, as well as a eg-spinner who has a bagful of tricks up his sleeve. And as for character, Stewart plodded on for the cause of his country at a time when two women closest to him, his mother and wife, were suffering from serious health problems. Stewart battled his personal problems as well as his cricketing one's (he was omitted from the first Fest against India) and fought back to ATRICK FAGAR

prove a point.

His country apart, Alec Stewart has also showed his commitment to his county, Surrey a side that he is captain of and from whom much has been expected in the English domestic season. It can be a tough task for most players who are trying to sort out their priorities for both country and county.

Much of Alec Stewart's problems, when he was out of form, were the result of faulty technique, a factor which he refused to accept. The fact is that Stewart's technique is based on a movement which goes back and

The England selectors have been doing a fair bit of experimentation with Alec Stewart and each time he has responded with the eagerness of a child being given his favourite toy

across as the bowler delivers. If this were so, then for Stewart timing and rhythm would have to be the strong point in his repertoire. And when things went wrong for Stewart as a result of this then his feet would get stuck. If one were to imagine the scene a bit, then the image drawn up would be that of French cricket. These heavy feet were evident even when he faced Venkatesh Prasad and Jawagal Srinath and it was only through sheer determination that he managed to score a couple of fifties. Surprisingly, it was against Wasim and Waqar that

Stewart learnt to dance again. And finally at Headingley and the Oval the old rhythm was back once again.

Determination. That would be the key word if one were to sum up the Alec Stewart of today. He's served his time in the wilderness and he's back to doing what he loves best:in this case keeping wickets with a flair and scoring runs. For someone who is just 33, Stewart has a fair bit of cricket left in him. And what is most important is that he will never shirk from his duty, which makes him doubly reliable. Push him down the order or up, make him wear the keepers' gloves or make him take it off. The England selectors have been doing a fair bit of experimentation with Alec Stewart and each time he has responded with the eagerness of a child being given his favourite toy.

The English cricket critics, however, think otherwise. Stewart should not be forced into playing a constant dual role for his country. they reasoned. For someone who is more talented as a batsman, it would be a waste of time. It would also wipe out all the efforts that he has been putting in as an opening batsman for England. Out of the total of 3,837 Test runs that he has scored so far (not counting the last two Tests against Pakistan), 753 of them have come when Stewart was playing as wicketkeeper and 3,084 as a specialist batsman. There lies the problem. In order to succeed further, Stewart has to take the responsibility of a specialist batsman. He has all the credentials and one thing's for certain, if he does succeed one man will be laughing, all over again.

You guessed it, Raymond Illingworth.

Robin Chatterjee



PAANI PURI

BY NOVY KAPADIA

SANGEETA RANI PURI did not win a medal at the Atlanta Olympics. But she had the honour of bettering her national mark in the 50m freestyle. Her only problem: a lack of sponsors

IFTEEN months ago, an elegant and talented non-resident Indian swimmer, born in Trinidad and raised in the USA, came to Delhi to represent the country of her ancestors. The precocious teenager Sangeeta Rani Puri had the confidence and talent to take Indian swimming to unprecedented heights. The million-dollar question was:

would Sangeeta be able to transcend the shameless politics of Indian sport or would she become one more victim of 'the system', another case 'of what might have been'?

In the course of one year she overcame many hurdles—the barriers of proving her nationality, the search for the elusive sponsorship and all the customary politicking of the Swimming Federation of India

(SFI)—by her sheer talent and brilliance in the pool.

In her first major meet, the junior nationals in Vijaywada, the young prodigy shattered into smithereens six national records in five days. At the Calcutta senior nationals, in October 1995, she was the best woman swimmer, winning seven events and breaking five national records. She can rightly proclaim herself to be the



ASHURI CHAKRABORTY

new aqua queen today.

Her goal, however, was the Olympics. Many scoffed at such daydreams. But Sangeeta faltered in her first international meet, the Asian Championships at Bangkok in April 1996 where she surprisingly froze and her timings were below her national marks. She missed the Asia-Pacific meet at Colombo last year due to lack of sponsorship. The potential was obvious. When FINA, the international body granted India a 'reserved entry' (or 'B' category entry) to the Olympic swimming competition, the SFI rightly chose Sangeeta to represent the country, despite the pressure of the Karnataka duo of Meghana Narayan and Nisha Millet (who has shifted from Madras to train at Bangalore).

Her coach Khazan Singh and the SFI secretary, Mr Nanavati rightly

said: "In terms of talent and ability, Sangeeta is India's best swimmer and so we chose her for the Atlanta Olympics." As her entry was in the 'B' category she was allowed to compete in just one race. The SFI felt that the 50 metres freestyle would be the best choice. Sangeeta felt that with the competition, she could have broken the one-minute barrier in the 100 metres freestyle. However as she remarked, the 100 metres freestyle was on the opening day and maybe, "I would have been too nervous to perform then. The 50 metres freestyle race took place a week after the Olympics commenced and allowed me to settle down."

Recalling the 'most memorable day of my life', Sangeeta says, "I am not the nervous type, as I have a positive outlook to life and think everything turns out for the best. My attitude to

Sangesta created ripples in both the junior and senior national levels. She was rightly chosen for the Atlanta Olympics

the race was 'have fun' which one of my former Santa Monica swimming club coaches taught me." The Indian swimming coach K.V. Sharma advised her to put in her best effort.

In the changing room, Sangeeta tried to concentrate on the race ahead. She said, "I wanted to emulate the great Russian butterfly expert Denis Pankatrov, who puts on his cap and goggles and just stares ahead to get ready for his race. However, my mind kept wandering. I recalled what some of my teammates and room-mates, K.M. Beenamol, Sunith Thakur and Aarti Kohli would say sarcastically, 'You have flown so many miles to swim for just thirty seconds".

However. Sangeeta clarified that, "such thoughts instead of putting



At home, fiddling with her hi-tech computer, as she chats with her friends on the telephone

pressure on me just helped me relax. I laughed at such teasing comments and knew all I had to do was achieve my life's best." With a wry grin, Sangeeta said, "There is more pressure on me in India during the Nationals, where I am expected to win every race. At the Olympics, I was just a non-entity. My aim was to achieve my life's best timing. I was drawn in Lane 3 and was very focussed in the dressing room and on the blocks. I knew I had to concentrate for just one length of the pool. My start was good and I had the best reaction time of all the eight swimmers."

Sangeeta felt that her main rival was the girl, in Lane No.4, Veronica Torianez. She stayed ahead of her and was elated that she had won her heat but was pipped at the end by Yelena Popchenka of Belarus, who was in Lane 7. Yelena clocked 27.18 and Sangeeta finished second on 28.02. It was a new national mark, much to Sangeeta's delight. "At least I achieved what I set out to do. I eclipsed my own previous national mark of 28.06 secs set at the Calcutta Nationals in September 1995,"

In fact, as Sangeeta said: "With a little bit of luck, I could have won my race. Since I breathe to my left, I could 32

not see Yelena in Lane 7 sneaking ahead. Anyway, the race was over so soon that it barely sunk in that I had swum in the Olympics."

After her race, Sangeeta said: "It was fun all the way. Along with my parents, we went to see the India versus Pakistan hockey match. I had an athlete's pass but my parents needed tickets from scalpers. I waited near the gate for them and whenever people walked by with Pakistani flags I shouted "India, India will win today and got some fascinating repartee."

OR Sangeeta, the Atlanta Olympics were an exhilirating experience. At the dining centre, she met Wimbledon runner-up MaliVai Washington and ace athlete Michael Johnson. During the swimming competition, she said she learnt a lot about mental preparation for a race from the brilliant Russians Alexander Popov and Denis Pankatrov. Sangeeta feels that Popov is the best swimmer in the world at the moment and admires him for his business-like attitude to swimming.

Sangeeta Rani Puri admits that facilities and exposure are the major differences between the swimmers in the USA and India. "Swimming is just not integrated in

During her moments of leisure, Sangeeta leves reading. Picture shows her flipping through the pages of Sportsworld



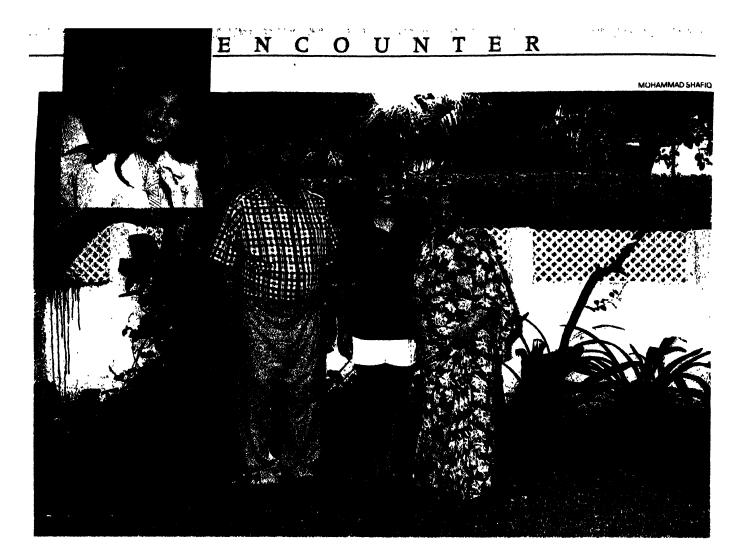
the school system in India," she moans. Sangeeta feels that to fulfil her ambition of an Asiad medal and maybe an Olympic medal in 2000 at Sydney she will have to train in the USA. She says, "After the age of 18 Indian women stop swimming, which is a waste of talent. The Olympics have shown that women become champions at a later age, like Michelle Smith and Kristina Egerzegi."

She feels that increased endorsements have motivated women swimmers to prolong their careers. She says, "German star Franzisca Van Almsick has her own TV show and endorses several products. She makes a comfortable living and so intends to swim as long as possible. Attitudes to swimming amongst women has altered. Even the Chinese 100 metres freestyle gold

medallist Li Jiangyi is well looked after by her country and aims to swim for many years." She feels that in India she does not get enough competition. At Delhi, she trains with the CRPF team and is coached by Khazan Singh at the Talkatora swimming pool.

After her exposure to the sports cultures of the developed and the developing world, Sangeeta realises that sheer talent and hard work is not





Sangeeta Rani Puri flanked by her grandparents Kunwar Krishan and Raj Rani Puri. (Inset)As a child with her father Raj Krishan

enough and 'the other side of the medal' is very demanding. Hence this confident and focussed teenager has mapped out her future. "After the junior nationals in Delhi, in mid-September, I leave for Los Angeles where I will join High School and finish my school leaving exams next year.

"During the year, I will resume training with my old coach John Apagar at the Santa Monica club. My immediate goal is to get selected on a swimming scholarship to an American university. I want to major in Law and improve my swimming. I can work with world class coaches and at a world class gymnasium, with a swim bench and proper psychological and sports medicine help. It is such help which can make me a world class swimmer."

But Sangeeta's heart is in India. She says: "I will always represent India.

My aim is a medal at the 1998 Bangkok Asiad. I hope that by regular training and competition at the American universities, I can match the best in Asia." Her only worry is finance. She hopes that the Swimming Federation of India can bear her travelling expenses from the USA to India and back or arrange for a sponsor.

Commenting about her Indian experience, she says: "I have learnt a lot, the importance of the family, the value of diplomacy and patience and Indian traditions." Her only source of worry is lack of sponsorship. At the Atlanta Olympics, she made her own tryst with destiny. She achieved her ambition of bettering her national mark. She was not part of the 'great Indian flop show'. Instead she showed a lot of promise for the future, a fact confirmed by several world class coaches at the USA.

Sangeeta hoped that after the Olympics there would be sponsorship offers. Instead, as she laughingly says, "My family is still my only sponsor so far." Her grandfather, Kunwar Krishen Puri, a retired IAS officer, father Raj Krishan Puri, an emment immigration lawyer and Moyne Margaret Puri, her mother of Trinidad-descent, have supported and nurtured her swimming career. After the Olympics, Sangeeta got a paltry Rs.25,000 from Syndet and Chemical India Ltd. as a reward for breaking her national mark. For her earlier trips to Bangkok, for the Asian meet, her family paid a substantial amount of money.

Sangeeta is frantically in search of a sponsor. Despite her numerous assets, in more ways than one, in this cricket obsessed country, there are no takers so far. No, this teenager has the grit and perseverance. She has a vision. No, she is not going to be one of those unfortunate ones whose talent has gone into oblivion, for want of support.

Sangeeta Rani Puri has a future. We hope. ●

The Truth

THE much-talked about restructuring of Indian football has just began to unravel. The Kalyani Black Label Cup was the curtain-raiser. But if the All India Football Federation (AIFF) plans tournaments in this way, there will be much to regret about in the future. How can one slot a play-off for the third position before the title clash and, that too, on a soggy pitch?

Star TV's lucrative deal obviously overwhelmed the interest of the footballers. The AIFF's so-called honest endeavours will suffer endless misery if sponsors or television channels call the shots.

The old and much fancied name of the Federation Cup was totally abolished to satisfy the sponsor. In the mad rush for profits, the bosses must remember that the game—not the sponsor—should be flourishing.

CHINMOY ROY, Calcutta.

Excellent

CONGRATULATIONS to

Washin Akram and his menfor doing an empellent job in
England. They drubbed England

- Gin the Test series. It was their
fifth consequitive Test series win
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Congrats!

S expected, India's performance at the Atlanta Centennial Olympic Games was dismal. This has been overshadowed by the lone bronze medal won by none other than Leander Paes in the men's singles tennis.

My heartiest congratulations to Paes for winning an individual medal after 44 years and more importantly, ending India's drought of medals at the for the last 16 years.

Hope he continues to play with such grit and determination and keep his country's pride

RAJNISH AGARWAL, Vizag.

Winning his first medal at the mother of all Games, the Olympics. But, more

importantly, thanks to him for giving India finally something to cheer about after 44 years.

What is most gratifying is that Leander Paes is finally getting tangible financial rewards for his yeoman services. Paes, undoubtedly, will always be there to serve India, but in today's mad mad world of professional tennis, we owe him a lot. More so, because he isn't the product of a 'sports system', which our country shamefully doesn't have. Yet he has risen to the occasion. The various associations and the government have taken the right step in announcing cash rewards. Let us hope they will go one step further in trying to evolve a scientific sports system.

Or am I asking for Jupiter's moon?

SWAPNA MITRA, New Delhi

PAYII PEN/

GARETH SOUTHGATE of England missed the penalty against Germany in the Euro '96 semi finals. Here's what happened to him after that

VERYBODY in England remembers the moment. Everybody watching TV worldwide remembers it. It was the penalty shootout between England and Germany in the Euro '96 semi finals. Both the teams were matching each other shot for shot. Now it was Gareth Southgate's turn. The stadium was awash in flags and cheers. The whole of England had been uplifted by their team's unexpectedly good performance in the Euro '96 championships. Now, here they were in Wembley Stadium with a chance to go to the final.

Gareth Southgate felt these burdens. But he also felt confident that he would score, as he walked up, dressed in his blue jersey and shorts. His face looked confident; his stride was also confident. He placed the ball firmly on the ground; he walked back to the top of his run. The referee blew the whistle; Gareth Southgate began to run. Six strides later, he hit the ball.

Somehow, the German goalie dived in the right direction. The ball had not been aimed to the far corner. Rather, it was aimed close to the middle. It would have been a goal if the goalie had dived the wrong way. But unfortunately for England and for Gareth Southgate, he dived the right

Market Market Control of the second of the s

way and was able to parry the ball. The stadium fell into a deafening silence.

As for Gareth Southgate, he went into shock. The whole thing happened so fast, that it seemed like a dream. He walked back to where his teammates were standing. They hugged him; they tried to console

him, especially Stuart Pearce who missed a similar penalty in the '90 World Cup against Germany.

In Euro '96, Germany scored all their shots; they were through to the final. Gareth Southgate etched himself firmly in the nation's consciousness, although, in a negative

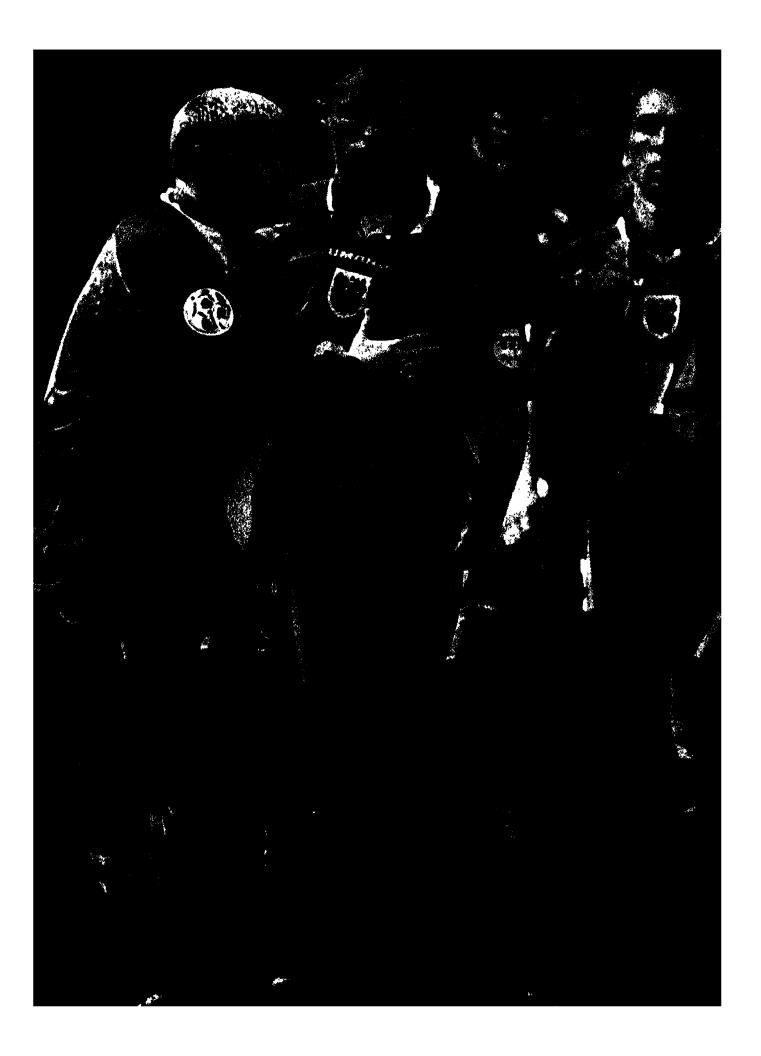


way. Southgate rightly feared nationwide condemnation and insults. Instead, he was stunned at the reaction.

"The reaction that I got from everybody in the whole country was a tremendous boost,"Southgate, who plays for Aston Villa, said, "I've had

Gareth Southgate holds his head in anguish after missing the penalty against Germany in the '96 Euro Championships. England lost to Germany in the semi final

thousands of letters. I've read all of them. Now I'm trying to respond to all of them. Aston Villa has given me a couple of secretaries. "Some of the letters have been from handicapped people. Or people with children who've had problems. You realise you were able to lift these people during the time when we were playing so well. But it can never change the way I feel about the miss. But it did make me feel that I'm



fortunate to be doing what I am doing, to be fit and healthy

"It will always be on my conscience," he continued, "that ultimately my miss was the one that put us out of the tournament. But every setback in life spurs you on. You can either shrivel up, sit in a corner and imope about it, or you push ahead and try to do something about the future."

Would he be prepared to take another penalty for his club and country?

He smiles when he is asked this question

"Why not," he says I had an interesting experience recently Villa got a penalty in a match held some time ago I was in the ridiculous situation of the whole stadium chanting my name asking me to take the penalty. However, Tominy Johnson did the job for us

Did he think that the penalty shoot-out should be abandoned as being an unfair ending a sort of Russian roulette after a long drawn-out game?

No I don't think so he said it's the fairest conclusion to a game. It is a test of skill and nerve which is what football is all about. It is not something that I am an expert at but I ll probably practise it a bit more than I did before. During that penalty shootout. Venables asked me if I was confident enough to take one and I said yes. It didn't enter my head that this was any great act of bravado.

Have you watched the game on video?

No Not yet he replied all I ve seen is the penalty coming up in other programmes. Then I get a sickly leeling in the stomach. I ike the lads of 1990.

There was curiosity in the media as to what penalty misser Stuart Pearce told Southgate when he missed the penalty There were rumours that he said, ' Don t worry about it mate, those six years just fly past

'No He didn t say anything like

Teammates (Paul Gascoigne in front) try to console Southgate after that missed penalty that sealed England's fate



Stuart Pearce is jubilant after scoring a penalty against Germany during the Euro '96 semi final

that to me—Southgate laughed "he might have said it to someone else! I had a long chat with him straight after. He said many people wrote sympathy letters to him and he suddenly realised that there is more to life than a missed penalty."

You have to put it in perspective Hopefully. I we got plenty of my career ahead of me to do something that people will remember me than by that inissed penalty. 'he said.

Gareth Southgate is 26 years old. He plays as a sweeper for Aston Villa. He is along with Paul Ince also playing as sweeper for England.

"The sweeper is the way forward"
he said Sammer (of Germany) did it
supertly during the summer The
Dutch have had a great success doing
it We lad a degree of success doing it

during the Euro championships '

The World Cup qualifiers have started Southgate hopes to play a significant role for this country. Also, who knows perhaps in a coming international manager Glenn Hoddle might give Southgate a chance to take a shot if England get a penalty.

If he scores then that would be fine way to exorcise his demons which haunt him now and then in the middle of the night. Because no matter how many sympathy letters he receives no matter how much consolation he receives a missed penalty is a missed penalty in the footballing world, there is no suffering deeper than that

THE BROTHERS LAUDRUP

MICHAEL and BRIAN LAUDRUP have made quite an impact at the international level. An analysis of their careers so far

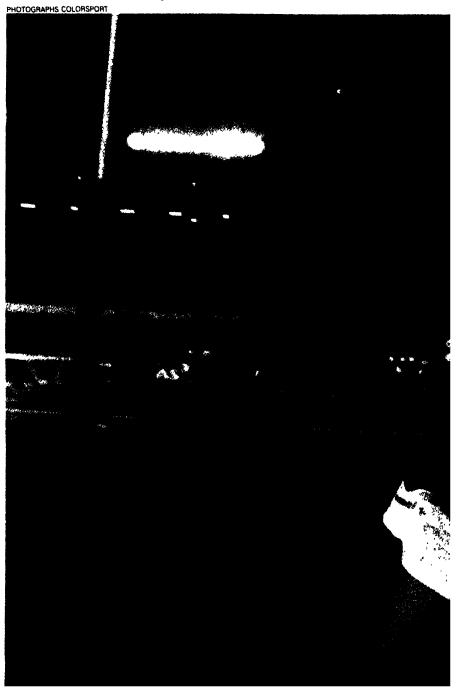
decade ago, in the 1986
World Cup at Mexico, the
slim and speedy Michael
Laudrup, after an intricate,
lazy dribble, scored a delectable goal
against Uruguay. The BBC TV
commentator, Brian Moore in sheer
exhilaration exclaimed, "The boy is a
genius."

Just 22 years old, Michael Laudrup's boyish good looks, pleasant smile and brilliant ball control had critics drooling over him. He received rave reviews and was hailed as a future superstar. Many predicted that he would take over from Michel Platini as Europe's most influential and best footballer.

After the 6-1 triumph over Uruguay, the Danish bubble burst in the 1986 Mexico World Cup. They were routed by Spain in the pre-quarter finals. The Danish defence was susceptible to the quick counter-attacks and succumbed. They had however thrilled the football fans, with their pleasing, open, attacking, end-to-end game. Their supporters were no 'lager louts', but pleasant, well behaved and eager to live life to the full. Their chant of "we are red, we are white, we are the Danish dynamite" is one of the abiding memories of Mundial '86. The Danish debacle was linked to inexperience and Michael Laudrup's poor performance (against Spain) considered as 'just another bad day in the office.'

A quirk of fate, a mere coincidence

Brian and Michael Laudrup just before a match against Belgium. Both have had successful careers



or a character trait, call it what you will, but somehow Michael Laudrup, after that fateful day in Mexico, never really lived up to expectations. The Danish dynamite did not really explode on the world scene. Michael Laudrup rated by many as Denmark's greatest player, has till Euro'96, been a consistent, but not a great, international player. Michael Laudrup was a boy wonder. He was trained for the game by his father, a former Danish international. As a promising teenager, he excelled for

Brondby and later KB Copenhagen. He was chosen Danish Player-of-the Year in 1982 and 1985. Michael Laudrup made his senior international debut on his 18th birthday versus Norway.

As a teenager he was Europe's most sought-after-player. Liverpool, Bayern Munich, Real Madrid, and Roma wanted to sign him. He turned down a move to go to Liverpool at the age of 17. The Juventus club, owned by the Agnelli family, offered him a lucrative contract and the chance for

fame in the world's toughest league. I was an offer and challenge he could not resist. He was initially loaned out to Lazio of Rome, as the Italian league had the two foreigners limit. In 1985, Juventus recalled him in place of Zbiqniew Boniek of Poland.

Michael bagged his first major trophy when he starred in Juventus' win in the World Club Cup at Tokyo in December 1985. After some years in Italy, a delighted Michael moved to Barcelona (Spain) as it gave him an opportunity to be coached by his idol,





the great Johan Cruyff. With Barcelona, he won four Spanish League titles and the coveted European Champions' club in 1992.

Michael gradually became surplus to Barcelona's requirements, as the Basque club acquired both Romario and Hristo Stoichkov. He quit and joined Spanish rivals Real Madrid with whom he won another Spanish League title. (Although it is ironical that, recently, Barcelona has bid 7 million pounds to get him once again).

So at club level, Michael has excelled as a roving, attacking player. His forte is sudden acceleration, close dribbles, deft passes and sound technique. However, his fragile temperament has let him down at the international level. At Barcelona, Cryuff often criticised Michael

Laudrup's perfectionist attitude which caused him to drift in matches in which he was not playing well, instead of fighting for the ball. Cryuff also felt that Michael's dislike for defensive duties makes him unsuitable to play a containing game.

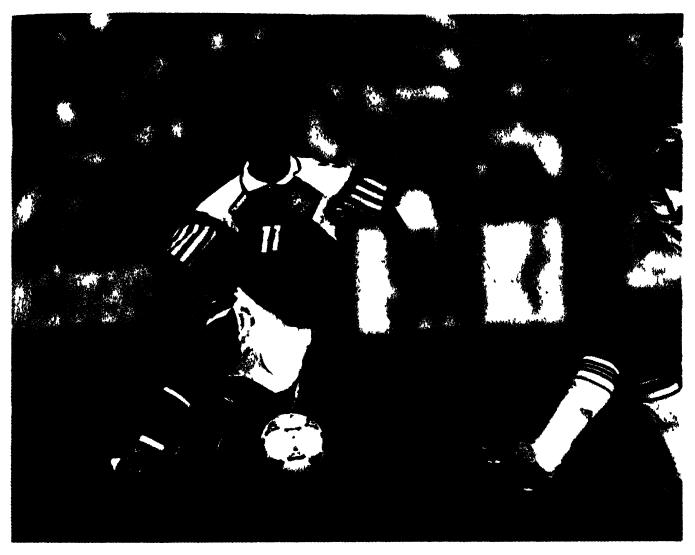
Michael also has very strong views on attacking football and his role in the team. This attitude caused him to miss Denmark's 1992 European Championship triumph due to a dispute over tactics and style with coach Richard Moller Nielsen. Prior to Euro'96, he had played 86 times for Denmark and scored 34 goals. He would have more than 100 caps but for his self-imposed exile. Peace was restored with coach Nielsen and, during the Euro'96 qualifiers, Michael got the roving, attacking role, with the

Michael(above) and Brian Laudrup(right) have the rare honour of playing for the country at the same time

national team, that he so cherishes. With age, he has matured and is more relaxed now. Euro'96 was, in fact, the best chance for Michael Laudrup to make a mark in history.

n contrast, the younger brother
Brian has had a more conventional
career. His game is based on speed and
explosive shots. Brian likes to
function on the left and leaves
defenders standing with his sudden
acceleration. He is adept at harassing
in midfield and then making quick
breakaways on the flanks.

Like Michael, he also made his international debut as an 18-year-old and has also played for many leading



clubs of Europe Brian started with Brondby of Denmark He made his international debut in 1987 vs Germany as yet another teenaged prodigy Brian was soon snapped up by Bayer Uerdingen in the Bundesliga He impressed with his work-rate and sudden speed For some years, he also played for mighty Bayern Munich His brief spell in Germany ended when he was transferred to Fiorentina of Italy

In 1993, he achieved every professional footballer's dream, being secured by the world's richest and greatest club, A C Milan Brian had an unhappy time at Milan He became a victim of their turnover policy when six foreigners were contracted but only three could play. The absence of regular first team exposure dulled his

appetite for the game and the sharpness of his attack

The move to Glasgow Rangers of Scotland, re-ignited his career He was voted Footballer of the Year in his first season at Scotland, as he helped Rangers win their seventh successive league title Brian was the first foreigner to achieve this accolade He was Player Of The Year a record three times in Denmark, in 1989, 1992 and 1995 The younger Laudrup is happy at Scotland and has signed a new extension to his contract at Rangers The Scottish fans appreciate his game, based on speed and powerful shots Andy Goram, the Rangers and Scottish goalkeeper says, "Brian likes to run at defenders, which is always thrilling to watch Thrust, mobility and power are the highlights of Brian

I audrup's game. His dribbling lacks the silky skills of elder brother. Michael. However. Brian is a more combative player and better team man. He can adjust to tactical requirements, and is ideally suited for Denmark's gameplan based on a packed midfield and quick breakaways. His speed and never-say-die spirit makes him difficult to contain.

Prior to Furo'96, he had made 81 international appearances and scored ten goals. He really came into the limelight when he starred in Denmark's 1992 European. Championship win Playing in the 1998 World Cup is now his major ambition.

Novy Kapadia



THE BEST.... BAR NONE

Denmark's ace custodian, PETER SCHMEICHEL, always manages to have the ball ORMER Liverpool and Scotland central defender Alan Hansen, now BBC's football pundit made an apt comment on the raw deal that goalkeepers receive in transfer deals.

Commenting on the Portugal vs Denmark, Euro '96 league match, Hansen said, "I don't know why clubs pay millions of pounds for strikers. Quality goalkeepers are as important, as those who score goals. After all Peter Schmeichel played as big a role in Manchester United bagging the 'double double' as Eric Cantona or any of the outfield players."

Hansen later on elaborated that Schmeichel is worth millions of pounds for the extraordinary saves that he pulls off, for his remarkable consistency and above all for giving confidence to his back four. Such is the regard that fellow professionals all over Europe have for Schmeichel, the 'Danish Iceman' who is rated the best goalkeeper in Euro'96 and probably the best in the world. In fact Hansen and the other BBC expert Ruud Gullit billed, Portugal vs Denmark as the clash of the goalkeepers. The Danes had Schmeichel in full cry and the Portugese had the acrobatic Victor Manuel Martins Baia. under the bar. Baia has just moved from Porto to Barcelona for a record \$5 million (at last a goalkeeper has got his due). Former England coach Bobby Robson, who succeeds Johan Cruyff as Barcelona coach for 1996-97, rates Baia the best custodian in the world.

However, in that group D match which ended in a 1-1 draw and in other Euro'96 matches, Schmeichel has shown that he is the nonpareil. His Manchester United manager, the wily-Alex Ferguson commends Schmeichel's presence, gripping of crosses, judgement of when to advance, timing to thwart a rampaging forward and remarkable agility. The canny Scot, Ferguson rates Schmeichel as the best goalkeeper in recent times. Club skipper Steve Erude feels that

Schmeichel helps the defenders play freely as they are confident when he is under the bar.

Ruud Gullit, who played for Chelsea in the 1995-96 season, reiterated that it was Schmeichel more than striker Eric Cantona who helped Manchester United achieve the historic 'double double'. Gullit said, "Often Schmeichel bailed out the shaky Manchester United back four by some incredible saves." The 6 ft. 4 ins, tall Danish custodian has a variety of nicknames. He is ironically called the 'Iceman' because of his volatile temperament. In England there is a joke that defenders are hesitant to join Manchester United, as Schmeichel is always bawling at them and shouting at errors in judgement or positioning. Manchester United's central defenders Steve Bruce (set to join Birmingham City next season) and Gary Pallister admit that Schmeichel hollers a lot but realise that such an attitude stems from the perfectionist approach of the Danish custodian.

At Euro'96, Schmeichel's Danish team-mates have given him a new nickname, 'The Milkman' because of a lucrative sponsorship contract with Danish Dairies. The Copenhagen born 33-year-old Dane feels that goalkeepers like vintage wine mature with age. He feels that early in his career he was very impetuous and this led to hasty judgement. With greater maturity, his sense of angle and judgement of when to leave the line has improved considerably. He does not believe in flashy saves but on reliability and being in the right position at the right time. Like Dino Zoff of Italy and Peter Shilton of England, he aims to continue as a top flight custodian (injuries permuting) till the age of

Schmeichel started his career with a little known Danish club, Gladsaxe Hero. He next moved to Hvidovre and later to Brondby, one of the best known Danish clubs. In the 1980s.







there was no professional league in Denmark and Schmeichel worked as a newspaper advertising salesman to supplement his income. He was content with his hectic lifestyle in Copenhagen and did not think of becoming a full time professional, he came into prominence in Euro 1988 at Germany, in Novy Kapadia

the final match against Italy after replacing veteran Danish custodian Troels Rasmussen. Italy won 2-0 but Schmeichel impressed. In 1990 he was chosen Player of the Year in Denmark.

Schmeichel's move to Manchester United was quite co-incidental. Alex Ferguson wanted to revamp the reds when he took over as manager in the late 1980s. His first trophy was the FA Cup in 1990, after a 3-3 draw and 1-0 win in the replay with Crystal Palace. Ferguson was unhappy with his goalkeepers. He wanted a more consistent custodian. He received rave reports about Schmeichel from some Manchester United scouts and finally agreed to sign him for a paltry 750,000 pounds in 1991. Schmeichel took the plunge as he wanted to play with the best and like many Danes he was a supporter of Manchester United. The signing on fee was paltry as compared to what Manchester United paid for strikers Eric Cantona (1.2 million) and Andy Coles (7 million). No wonder Hansen keeps complaining about goalkeepers being neglected.

Schmeichel's wages were 2,000 pounds per week. which later rose to 3,000 pounds per week when he excelled in Euro'92, helping Denmark become champions, by his sterling performance under the bar. Gradually Schmeichel became indispensable and his wages rose. After Manchester United bagged their first double crown (FA Cup and League) in one season in 1994 he got 10,000 pounds per week. Today, befitting his status, he gets about 12,000 pounds per week:

Schmeichel's wages are still much less than what the strikers get. Denis Bergkamp is paid 20,000 pounds per week by Arsenal. Puastino Asprilla, the Columbian international also earns about 20,000 pounds per week from Newcastle United. Gianluca Vialli set to join Chelsea in 1996-97 is likely to get 25,000 pounds per week. Eric Cantona gets about 18,000 pounds per week from Manchester United. Still Schmeichel is the highest paid goalkeeper in Britain. He has won three Premier League titles, two FA Cup titles with Manchester United and Euro'92 with Denmark. Peter Schmeichel was and is currently the best under the bar. If only the soccer bosses would do something about his pay packet.

READERS'

QUESTIONS

At the 1970 U.S
Open something
was introduced for the first
time in a tennis grand slam.
What was it?

After they saw him play he was nicknamed Apple by his county compatriots. Who are we talking about?

Which FIFA referee is also an ICC panel umpire?

A football match starts with a kick-off. What term is used to denote the start of an ice hockey match? In the game of cricket what is referred to as the Barrington Chop?

She is one of the most popular and attractive women's tennis players. She also endorses perfumes to supplement her tennis income. Who is the player?

In cricket a batsman could be given out in nine possible ways. One batsman has the distinction of being given out in eight of the nine possible ways. Who is he?

Sunil Gavaskar might have been the most popular Sheriff of Mumbai. But he was not the only cricketer to have served as the Sheriff of Mumbai. Name the others.

Answer to Question No.3





Answer to Question No.2

During the 1974
football World Cup
semifinal between the
Netherlands and Germany,
one very popular
Hollywood actress was
seen in the stands with a

Dutch flag. Who was this supporter?

The second
Brisbane Tie' is
the name given to a very
famous sporting incident.
What are we referring to?

ANSWERS

- 1. Tie-breaks were introduced for the first time in a grand slam tournament.
- 2. Anil Kumble. He was nicknamed Apple after the dessen Apple Crumble.
- 3. Steve Bucknor of the West Indies.
- 4. Pace-off.
- 5. The dropping of a batsman from a side for slow scoring despite having made a high score in his previous encounter.
- 6. Gabriela Sabatini.
- 7. Mohinder Amarnath. The only way he was not given out was for hitting the hall more than once in an effort to score.
- 8. Vijay Merchant and Madhav Apte.
- 9. Elizabeth Taylor.
- 10. The dead-heat between Allan Wells and Ken McFarland in the 100m at the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



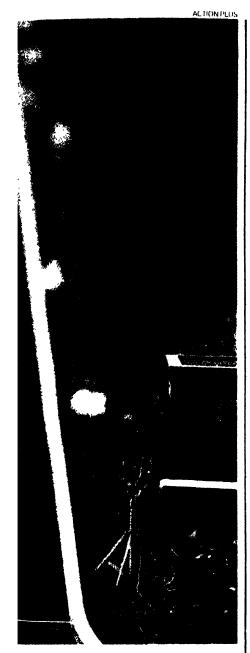
DHRUBAJYOTI BASU, A 3/3 Karunamoyee, SALT LAKE, CALCUTTA- 700 091.

All answers sent in by contributor.



MASTER OF HER CLASS!

SVETLANA MASTERKOVA surprised the athletics world with golds in the 800 and 1500 metres at the Atlanta Olympics



VETLANA MASTERKOVA was the least expected gold medal winner in the 800 and 1500m at the Atlanta Olympics. The world media was focussing on Maria Mutola of Mozambique who had won 45 races at one trot in the 800m. After Mutola, they felt that world champion Ana Quirot stood a good chance. No one ever gave a thought to the relatively unknown Russian.

In the heats, Svetlana Masterkova gave no hint of awesome form. Again, people were talking about Mutola and

Svetlans Masterkova raises her arms in triumph as she wins the 800m gold at the Atlanta Olympics

Quirot. But when the final began, it was the unheralded Masterkova who sprang to the lead. She ran with a fluid easy style, her blonde hair flying in the wind, clad in a colourful blue top and shorts with red lines running across it. Keeping her company was another Russian, Yelena Afanasyeva. The other runners suspected a trap. That maybe Masterkova was a rabbit, running fast, to tire out the other runners. This is of course a technique made famous by the Kenyans in the middle and the long distance events.

But at the bell, it was Masterkova who poured on the pace. A grim faced Mutola, her body trembling with the effort, struggled to keep in Svetlana's wake. It was an effort that robbed her off a finishing kick. Cuba's Ana Quirot sprinted past her to win the silver while Mutola had to settle for bronze. But the winner was Masterkova in a time of 1:57.53. It was a surprise win for Masterkova who had been concentrating on the 1500m from the early part of her career. "I trained very hard," Masterkova said in a post race interview, "I told myself I'm in love with training."

Come the 1500m and people began to keep an eye on Masterkova. But she had one less powerful rival to think about. World and Olympic champion Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria tripped and fell in the semi final. She struggled desperately to catch up, but it was too late. She ended up last.

In the final, Masterkova ran steadily and smoothly although it was Britain's Kelly Holmes who led the field for the most part. But in the last lap, Masterkova pressed on the accelerator; there was no competition whatsoever. She won the gold easily. It wasn't a really authentic win, since the absence of Boulmerka robbed the event of that razor sharp competition that would have made it a great race. Still, an Olympic gold medal was an Olympic gold medal. You can't take that away from her.

It was a rare double. The only

previous 800/1500m double was achieved by Tatyana Kazankina in the '76 Montreal Olympics. But then Kazankina was always dogged by rumours of steroid use, so maybe it was not an authentic achievement.

The season continued. Masterkova showed that the form displayed at Atlanta was the start of a glorious period of racing. Because in Zurich, in the Grand Prix meeting, in August, she smashed the world mile record. Her time: 4:12.56. She broke the mark set by Paula Ivan of Romania in 1989 by more than three seconds.

"It was a perfect race," she explained, "although I have never done any special training for the mile." She won a \$50,000 bonus for setting a world record plus one kilogram of gold which was worth about \$12,000. These were just rewards for those long months of training. The 28-year-old Masterkova has had a tough time making a mark in the international circuit.

She started her career with a bang when she became the 1500m Russian champion in 1991 at the age of 23. In 1993, she ran 1:56.76. The timing indicated that she was an athlete of promise. But it was about this time that she began to be plagued by injuries. That upset her training schedules; then she got married. That took her away from the track. Then she became a mother. The result of all this: she was in the wilderness for three whole years.

It was only this last year that she has been practising intently. And the result became very evident at Atlanta and Zurich. Nine days after setting the world record in Zurich, she set another world record in the 1000m with a time of 2:28.98.

The general consensus in the athletics circuit is that Svetlana Masterkova is here to stay. The way she is running, the way she has been training, there is every possibility that she is going to dominate the middle distance events for some time to come.

William Rhodes with inputs from T S.Venkataraman



PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT



We think that racing is thrilling and good fun. But semetimes, things can go very, very wrong, as this picture shows. This accident happened during the Winston Select 500 at Talladenga in the United States. The tragic result: one of the drivers lest his life.

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

TITLE: ATHLETICS IN 100 YEARS OF OLYMPICS AUTHOR: HEMANT JOGDEO PUBLISHER: THE MARINE SPORTS, BOMBAY. PRICE: RS.75 PAGES: 140

VETERAN sports journalist
Hemant Jogdeo, who has worked
for three decades with Daily
Kesari, Pune has produced a
comprehensive and informative
reference book on athletics logdeo
who has covered five Olympic Games
needs to be complimented for his
meticulous research and presentation
of material. The history and the
country wide distribution of medals
in each event is carefuly analysed and
boldly presented.

Statistics, crisp profiles and background material on athletics in the 100-year history of the Olympics are aptly interspersed to make this slim volume both engrossing and scholastic Mr Togdeo has traced the history of each event. For instance, in the section on sprints for men, the list of gold medallists and their timings from 1896 to 1992 are neatly catalogued. As the book was written just prior to the Centennial Atlanta Olympics, space has been provided to jot in the winners of each event.

Just below this list, there are boxes on Indian records, Asian records,

Olympic records and world records of each event. The country-wide distribution of the medals tally is fascinating to browse through. For instance, in the 100 metres for men, as expected, USA has bagged 14 gold, 13 silver and five bronze medals in the 22 occasions that the race took place. This pattern is repeated for each event. The book is categorised into different sections, sprints, middle distance, long distance, throws jumps, walks, relays, marathon, decathlon and the heptathlon.

After each event, there are crisp and brief profiles of the men and women who have excelled in the Olympics For instance, there is a profile of Fdwin Moses (400 metres hurdles for men) and Jesse Owens (the 100 metres) Vladmir Kuts, Fmile Zatopek, Paavo Nurmi and others in long distance running. In the women's section there are profiles on Fainny Blankers Koen of Holland Mildred 'Babe' Didriksen and Wilma Rudolph

The opening chapter From Antiquity to the Olympiad of 1996 is well researched as it provides a brief but interesting historical background of the Olympics There are write-ups on Indian athletes like Norman Pritchard and Milkha Singh This well-produced volume which has several colour illustrations is compulsive reading for athletics buffs and educative for all these interested in sports and the Olympic movement

Novy Kapadia



HIT-MAN!

ROMESH KALUWITHARANA is perfectly capable of knocking the opposition's socks off. A profile

OMESH KALUWITHARANA'S modesty, in the wake of the mayhem that he causes at the batting crease, is remarkable. "I can now say that I really believe in myself and my ability with the bat," the sprightly Sri Lankan opener remarked after his astonishing knock in the final of the Singer World Series that concluded weeks back. "I always play my normal game. We work according to the team plan. If I get struck Jaya gets going,. If I'm, hitting, Jaya anchors at one end. And the first fifteen overs strategy has worked remarkably well."

The pint-sized wicketkeeper's rise to the top, ever since the World Series competition against Australia during the 1995-96 season, has been phenomenal. Kaluwitharana was included in the tour party to Australia as a standby wicketkeeper to Hashan Tillekeratne. Sri Lanka went in as the underdogs in that series yet they had already planned to prove a point or two.

As Australia returned to its winning ways in the first of the three Test series, gaining victory by an innings and 129 runs inside four days, there was this man who fought like a true soldier, coming in at No.7. He stole the limelight from the opposition by scoring a solid 50 and an impressive 40 in two innings. In his words, "I scored some 170-odd runs in that Test series. held six catches but the best was still to come. We were indeed making the preparations for the World Cup to follow. All the efforts that we put in were essential in order for us to establish ourselves. We badly needed to shake off the tag of underachievers." With the series

Down Under against the toughest professionals in the modern day's game, a renaissance had already begun in Lankan cricket. Headed by Arjuna Ranatunga it was in for a very big change. Says Kaluwitharana, "Everybody was made aware of their responsibilities. We knew our job. Ranatunga has always been a father-figure to our side and his advise was accepted as the Gospel's truth. There was help which came from different quarters as well. Dave Whatmore served as an excellent coach and councellor."

Throughout the World Series 'Kalu's (as he is affectionately called by his colleagues) dynamic work behind the stumps gave the spectators sheer entertainment. He has enjoyed the faith of his captain and teammates. As bowler Chaminda Vaas recalls, "He has always been very encouraging. He's a dynamic guy and rubs off his enthusiasm on others." But more than keeping it was his batsmanship that created a sensation along with his opening partner Sanath Jayasuriya.

It was not until the ninth match of the World Series that Romesh Kaluwitharana's powerplay came on display. He was promoted to open along with Jayasuriya after a series of inconsistent innings. A gamble, no doubt. But Arjuna Ranatunga backed it up, saying, "I had absolute faith that he would be able to fit himself anywhere along the line. Opening (the innings) with him was not merely an experiment." And 'Kalu' swashbuckled his way to a breezy 77 before getting run out. What followed of course was history. A dream run of 77, 50, and 74 in the three consecutive matches that came to a temporary

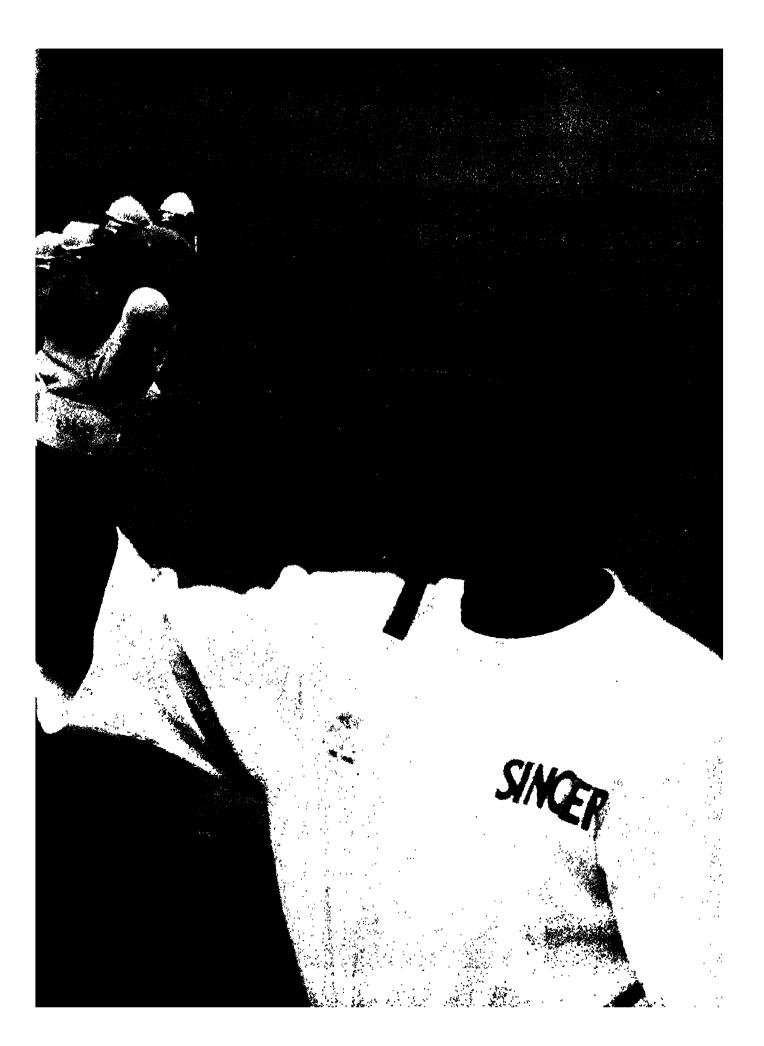
hault during the Pest of Three finals. Kaluwitharana admits, "There have been times when I have encountered failures. As a pinch-hitter you don't always succeed, more, so when I've been entrusted the responsibility to provide a rapid start to my team."

The World Series was a run up to the World Cup. In spite of his fantastic run Down Under the Sri Lankan dynamo failed to get into rhythm in his country's Cup campaign. "It was very frustrating," he says, "I was trying my level best, Jaya's innings against India in the league match, and against England in the series was really inspirational. I've learnt a lot from him."

Coming from an ordinary, yet cricket crazy family, it was not surprising that Kaluwitharana took up cricket. There were no cricket connections though, still the game had a very big place in the life of his folks. The enthusiasm that cricket generates in this island nation is much much more than any other sport. Wicketkeeping was somewhat more attractive to him. He feels that it's a job that has its share of challenges in equal measure.

The Lankan opener concentrates on hitting the bowlers off their length, and has succeeded on many occasions. The 126 run record opening stand with Jayasuriya in last month's Singer Cup against India was an exhilarating exhibition of classic strokeplay. Kaluwitharana is a thorough entertainer who loves to bear this tag and quips confidently, "After all, we haven't taken the World Cup alone, we have brought home the prize of 'Best Entertainers' as well."

RICA ROY PHOTOGRAPH ALOKE MITRA





SLATED FOR SUCCES?

Michael Slater is at the crossroads of his career. Can he revive his game from this point on?

F you have heard and listed all the theories regarding Michael Slater's puzzling one day form, you might expect to find him on a couch in front of some sports shrink.

Sorry to disappoint but the popular Australian opener's summer was spent getting away from all that mental clutter. Relaxing has been his top priority. He has analysed and dissected his fall from favour many times already. Five weeks in India and Pakistan during the World Cup without playing a game gave him more than enough time.

He has relegated his horror streak of 32, 2, 10, 50, 0 and 2 in the last winter's world series competition against Sri Lanka and West Indies to his subconscious and prefers to forget the time when his regular spot was taken away.

Visiting friends and family in Wagga, cutting his golf handicap, a Hayman Island holiday and devoting time to a new home and wife Stephanie took a greater priority than cricket before finally the rat race was on, and he started thinking of cricket once again.

"Shadow batting with one of the trusty Gray Nicolls bats I've floated around the house — one in the bedroom, another in the study — was as close as I got", said Slater, "soon the focus shifted to the Super 8s tournament as the effort was put into leading NSW for the first time". He still bears the memory of last winter's disappointing finale and the intense physical pain he had to endure. The

right thumb was badly crushed by a ball from Heath Streak in the Australia — Rest of the World one dayer in March and Slater today carries a scar on the thumb and the two metal screws inserted to mend the break are still there. "It's going to be the strongest thumb going around", Slater said jokingly.

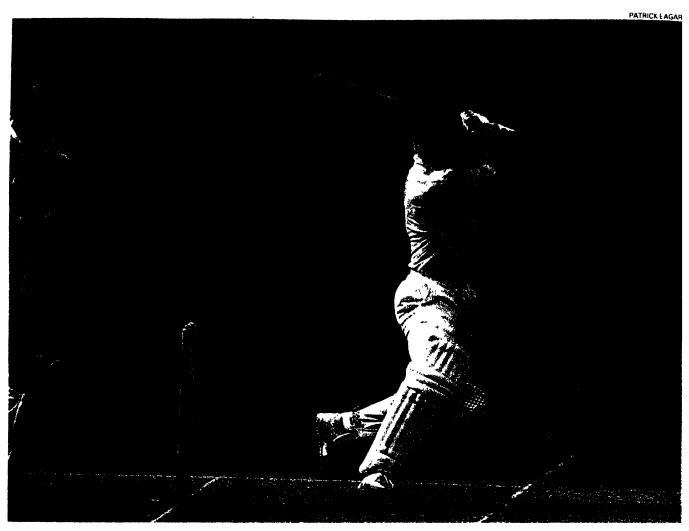
It was the second time in 13 months that Slater had sustained such an injury : after that his mission was to organise a pair of modified gloves for greater protection. Slater can vividly recall finishing his 95-96 season in a private hospital in Sydney's eastern suburbs for two hours of delicate surgery. It was certainly a nightmarish end to a summer the highlight of which was his superb 219 against Sri Lanka. "I couldn't believe I was lying there", Slater reflected. The way the final months of the season had gone, it was like,"Wow. This summer has really finished with a bang."

The double century in his 31st Test appearance enabled Slater to conquer a mental block and finally exorcised some demons. "The most satisfying part of it was the fact that I had shown the ability to play a long innings", said the 26 year old about his epic performance that lasted 321 balls and 402 minutes. "I hadn't scored a century for seven Tests before that, so that was most rewarding." It was the highest in his career and was dotted with 15 boundaries. It was the highest score by an Australian in Perth and it surpassed David Boon's 200 against New Zealand in the 1989-90 series.

Slater considers his cricket to be a serious business but does get carried away at times. He admitted that he needed to learn a lot more about the mental aspects of batting, and has to overcome the tendency to get "too pumped up and out of control at the crease when facing quickies", especially the West Indian fast bowlers. "I went out there too pumped up. I crossed the fine line from being positive but in control, to be positive and slightly out of control," Slater said, recalling the tour against West Indies which they won and in which Slater played his role rather

4. 2. 1 ... 44.7.

Opining that Michael Slater is no good at one day cricket is like saying John McEnroe would make a bad doubles player in tennis. It just doesn't gel. When asked as to what went wrong in the world series Slater said, "The most frustrating thing for me is that people want me to come out with a reason as to why it happened. There was no reason as to why I did not score well last summer, beyond saying that everyone has run-outs. It was just a case of a few failures and all of a sudden people think there is a technical thing or a mental thing which needs changing." He then addded, "Most of the people are asking why did it happen? What were you thinking? Were you trying to be too aggressive and so on. Twelve months ago no one was saying that I had to change anything and I don't think that I had done anything dramatically different last season".



In other eras, batsman with inferior credentials than Slater would have been retained for longer and would have been allowed to fight their way out of his slump. It is a measure of the current talent that exists in Australian cricket today that the selectors could even entertain the idea of dropping Slater from the team. Ironically Slater had entered the World series last winter feeling that he was in good one day form. He had just finished his two most successful one day series, the 1994-95 World series (301 runs at an average of 37.63) and the 1995 encounter against the West Indies (186 at 37.20).

"At the point when I was dropped, I was averaging 8 in World series and the low 20s overall in any one day career", Slater accepted, "I'm not proud of that at all and I know it should have been a lot better." Slater

had finally managed to put things into perspective and that is what makes Slater one of the most exciting openers in the world today. "I'm not going to change my game, I'm not going to change my thinking, I'm not going to change the way I've been trained," Slater said with absolute faith in his methods.

Instinctively he'll be the same shot maker about whom Bobby Simpson once quipped, "sometimes you've to remind Michael that you get only 4 off a shot, not right from a boundary, because he just likes to hit it so hard." Slater would remain the dynamo who once hit a Sri Lankan spinner for a straight six even with two fieldsmen back on the rope in Perth. He had told himself 'No' just moments before, vet the ball had to be hit. And hit hard.

Remaining out of the playing XI during the World Cup did not exactly

Slater in full flow during the '93 series against England in Lords. He went on to score a century and (facing page) being congratulated by Taylor

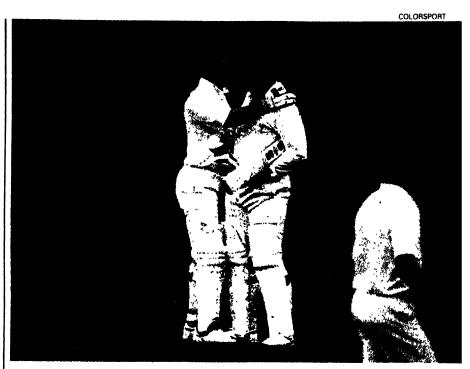
boost his confidence, but it gave him time to catch up on his literature. As he admited, "I'd be lying If I said I didn't feel disappointed in not playing over there". Then Slater elaborated, "I had a few off days when I figured everything was against me and I could'nt believe I wasn't playing, but that's only human. I was proud of the way I kept my spirits up and got through. If I'd been required for the final without a game in five weeks, I reckon J could have done the job because I made sure I kept at it in the nets".

Motivation was never a problem for Slater and the pride of just being in the Australian squad was evident when after their semi-final win Slater and Shane Lee were quick to jump the

fence and joined their team who were huddled together on the field.

Slater is looking ahead positively and realises that there is a lot of cricket still to come. He feels refreshed for the challenges ahead, even though his exciting profile had generated the busiest offseason he has ever experienced. In between practising he runs a coaching clinic for kids, participates in channel Nine's 'The Cricket Show', and endorses Mazda cars. The assignment for Channel Nine has been a new direction for Slater, as well as a new challenge. 'Working on the show has been really enjoyable and may be it's setting up something for me after the end of my cricket career," he mused. "I'm extending myself. That is the way I look at it".

It is too early to say whether his knocks in the Singer Cup will help him get back into the opening slot for Australia. There is never a dearth of good players in Australia and Slater knows that. But then the selectors and | October that question will be



coach Geoff Marsh might just decide to give him another chance. When the Australian team tours India in

answered. Till then, Slater will do well to keep his fingers crossed.

Rica Roy, Colombo

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THE 'DEAR AZHAR' CONTEST

THE RESULTS!

A couple of months ago, we had asked our readers to send letters addressed to 'Dear Azhar'. As usual, we were bombarded with entries. The following are the winners:

FIRST PRIZE

A couple of years ago it seemed there would be no looking back for you. As India's most successful captain, as an enthralling cricketer, as a clean-cut religious family man and as example of how hard work and perseverance bear fruit, you were the perfect hero. But when people begin to set standards by you, they took away your right to be human.

In the past few months, you seemed continuously embroiled in one controversy after another. I cannot say if what you did was right or wrong, but you had more bad luck than you deserved and then some. On that account, it is unfair for me or anyone else to judge you, as the pressures of the captaincy and those of your non-cricketing life cannot be assessed by anyone but you. For my part, I can only hope that you are able to pull yourself out of this rut.

You were my favourite teenage role-model, even throughout the time when you were in the depths of cricketing misery. You pulled yourself out of that chasm in spectacular fashion in early '93. When you walked out to bat at Trent Bridge in July'96, the thought crossed me that if you could do it then, you could do so now. When you walked back, I knew I had probably seen you make your last

few runs as captain of India.

To be fair to you, you are too mild and well-mannered to be a harsh, commanding and relentless captain; your straightforwardness makes you predictable. I do not know how much you enjoyed your tenure as captain, but I personally feel that had you not become captain, you would have scaled greater heights as a batsman.

For some time now, and for all the wrong reasons, you have been in the limelight. As I recall, it started when your private life was thrown open to debate and discussion. The general opinion was that you had done wrong; your image as a devoted family man took a massive beating. Much as I dislike this violation of your personal life, I nonetheless have my views. I think that there is no right or wrong for you, only the honesty which you own yourself.

You have also been blamed for the loss in the World Cup semi-finals, though I am sure you had your reasons to field first. What was disgusting about that match was not the performance of your team, but the behaviour of the crowd. All teams go through bad times, and so did yours. Whatever your form may be like, you cannot bat and bowl for eleven people.

Navjot Sidhu's walking out in the

middle of a tour was grossly unfair to the team which needed him. Whether you were at fault or not is not the question, though, all in all, you have got more than your fair share of the flak.

From the World Cup to the rather disastrous England tour, there has not been much for you to celebrate about as a cricketer and as a captain. We Indians are an emotional people and leading the national cricket side is quite a job. Not many understand the finer aspects of the game and very few appreciate the effort and concentration required to make runs or to set a field.

The unpleasant events of the past months has attempted to soil the image I had of my childhood idol. But that was in vain, because I wanted to remember you as a spellbinding performer who made batting and fielding an art and as a hardworking individual who set an example by his perseverance, honesty, generosity, and faith in the Almighty. A wise person once said that it is not how often you fall that counts, it is how many times you pull yourself back up. And in that context, I would like to believe that your last bow has yet to come.

Good luck, Azhar.

PAYAL DHAR New Delhi.

FIRST PRIZE: (RS1111/-)

PAYAL DHAR, D-11/2585 VASANT KUNJ, NEW DELHI - 110 070

SECOND PRIZE: (RS.777/-)

NITHYA. S. 7/2 FIRST MAIN ROAD, KANNAPPA NAGAR, THINUVANMYUR, MADRAS - 600 041. THIRD PRIZE: (RS.222/-)

SECOND PRIZE

Thave been a fan of yours ever since I have known what the game of cricket is all about. I have been happy each time India triumphed and felt down in the dumps when we lost. India seemed to be a side neither too good nor too bad in the Nineties.

But in 1996, cricket's greatest year, only you can tell us what went wrong with you and your team. Firstly, veterans like Gavaskar were harping about your inability to lead India. But it looked like you had silenced your detractors when India reached the semi-finals of the 1996 World Cup. Even when you chose to field first, I thought you were the best person to decide as Eden Gardens was your favourite ground. As a fan, I thought there must be a method to your madness. But as the match progressed. I was baffled and of course, the rest is history. When a spectator held up a board "Kill Azhar", I could almost agree with him. But as sanity returned, I thought, "So what if it was the semis, it was just another match. Things will improve,

now."

Or so I thought, for the worst was yet to come. Soon, Manoj Prabhakar retired and squarely blamed you for it.

Then, your personal life became an open book on which anyone and everyone could write upon. There was this incident about you mauling a reporter in Bangalore which fans like me chose to ignore, because we know you are too much of a genteman to behave like that. Then, papers, big and small, published stories on your marital life, which again I chose to ignore as the way you play has nothing to do with it. (It's none of our business, anyway). As long as the runs keep coming in your inimitable style, I am happy because that helps India win.

Then came the England tour which was a near disaster, as far as your innings against England, was considered. To add to the misery, one of India's seniormost players returned home in a huff, again blaming you. This really made me wonder, if you really were a good skipper.

Of course, you have the enviable record of being the captain, under whom, India has won the most number of matches. As a spectator, I know, this is no mean task. But then these are all events of the past and you can't live in the glory of the past, all through your lifetime.

Dear Azhar, as a well-wisher, let me tell you, in today's demanding world, your private life remains private only until it does not affect your professional life. Once that happens, you are open to attack from all fronts, private, personal and professional. You can still come out of this big mess, start afresh, and give nobody the chance to question you on any front.

After all, Indian cricket needs you badly as a player. And I promise, you still have supporters who believe "You can do it!!" and not because you are lucky but because you are plucky. One day I am sure, the team and the whole country will say, "Yehi hai right choice baby!"

S.NITHYA, Madras.

THIRD PRIZE

T is a great oppurtunity to tell you about our thoughts and feelings over all that has happened in the past few months. You have been leading the Indian team for the last six years. We have seen triumphs as well as defeats under your leadership. But now you lack concentration, determination and temperament. It's not only your batting that needs to be improved, but even your personal life needs to be settled properly.

During the six years ('90-96) under your captaincy, Indian cricket has lost Ravi Shastri, K.Srikkanth, Manoj Prabhakar and now it's Sidhu. They all complain about your unfriendly behaviour. Why should this happen? Being the skipper of the Indian squad

you can't afford to be irresponsible, non-cooperative, nor can you allow your personal life to go 'open'. Your horrendous decision of fielding first at Eden Gardens has aroused widespread anger. People feel agitated by your every move because there's always something wrong in it. The decisions, the gameplans, the strategies never seem to work out.

Cricket is a captain-oriented game. As you were the skipper, you had to face the criticism, you had to bear the tension and in the midst of the chaos and confusion, you had to perform well. But you failed to do that

There are trials and tribulations in everyone's life and a person has to cope with that. So please take it easy. We had a different Azhar batting way

back in the '80s, now it's a different Azhar altogether. Yesterday's Azhar was responsible, had temperament and had also proved to the world that sheer hard work and determination can take a person to the pinnacle of glory.

But today's Azhar is a vacillating person, lacking determination, temperament and is not at all focused. You did your job for a while. Now it's time to concentrate full-time on your batting and settle your personal life.

Because, finally, people will like to remember you as a good cricketer and a good skipper, not as the most controversial captain in the history of Indian cricket.

BIDISHA SEN, Calcutta.

THE 'FLOP SH

The Fosbury Flop is her trademark. Winning has become a habit. A profile of STEFKA KOSTADINOVA, Olympic gold medallist

ERHAPS if the news of the mishap had not been kept concealed till the Centennial Games at Atlanta was over.
Bulgaria's illustrous daughter Stefka Kostadinova might not have won the

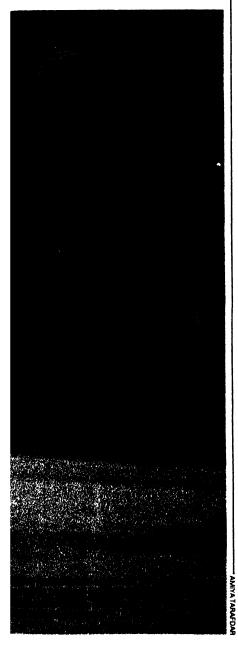
Olympic high jump gold medal. Although the tragedy was painfully unbearable one must laud Stefka's husband Nikolaj Petrov and manager Paivi Kulikowshi for mustering all the courage not to have divulged it to her. The idea was that she could continue her Atlanta preparations uninterrupted and undisturbed. No, they did not make the blunder of telling her till the Games were over. They didn't want to disturb her.



DW

As it is the ace high jumper was quite frustrated because, for the past decade, the Olympic gold eluded her. She just couldn't figure out as to how a world champion could have so much of ill-luck, that she could not win the gold. But the struggle was on.

When she created a world record in the '87 World Championships at Rome, the athletic fraternity



came to the conclusion that
Stefka Kostadinova was the
overwhelming favourite for the high
jump gold in the 1988 Olympic Games
at Seoul. Stefka too felt the same.
Well, she had the right to think that
way.

But somehow luck went against her at Seoul when she finished second to American Louise Ritter. Stefka vowed that she would do better in future. The Bulgarian star was not going to surrender so easily. But when the Barcelona Olympics came around, she was confronted with another misfortune. She sustained a knee injury followed by acute pain in her foot. It became intolerable; it was diagonised that the pain was emanating from a broken bone. Stefka became nervous for she knew that it would have an adverse bearing on her performance at the Barcelona Olympics.

Her premonitions came true: her second attempt for the Olympic gold ended miserably; she missed even the bronze medal.

The years went past. Stefka gave birth to a son in 1995. There was talk that her chances in the international circuit would certainly fade away. But Stefka was made of a different pedigree altogether. A couple of months after her child's birth, she started to train again in her native Bulgaria under the guidance of her husband. Each time she went for training, the couple took their infant son along, with Stefka's mother willingly opting to be the babysitter. That certainly took away most of her worries.

And at Gothenburg last year, in the World Championships, she brought back vivid memories of her golden triumph in Rome eight years ago when she won Bulgaria's only gold of the meet to become the world champion with a jump of 2.01 metres. But still her medal chest had one big medal missing: an Olympic gold. It was only after winning a gold medal that she would be considered one of the greatest high jumpers in history.

Stefka began to train furiously. It was then that the tragedy took place,

which forced her husband and manager not to inform her, so that she would not lose her equanimity.

The story went like this. Before leaving Bulgaria for her training, Stefka's dearest friend Georgi Davok had promised her that he would be physically present at Atlanta to see her win the gold. It looked as though Davok was optimistic about Stefka winning gold finally. But a week before the Atlanta Olympics began, his car collided with another car which was speeding down from the opposite direction on the seaside in Bulgaria. Davok died instantaneously. In the same car, Stefka's father, who was sitting in the front, also sustained serious injuries, while her younger sister luckily escaped unhurt. Stefka's father's condition was not good and is still not good: it will only be known whether he will be able to stand or walk next year. Her husband, manager and sister did not tell Stefka of the tragedy till the Olympics were over.

"We didn't tell her. I don't think she would have won if she had known," manager Paivi Kulikowshi told the International Herald Tribune. "All of us around her know about it and we were all worried that some journalist would ask about it. Her husband was keeping the problem inside him the whole time."

Meanwhile, in the high jump competition, Stefka Kostadinova finally achieved her long cherished dream when she won the gold with a Olympic record (2.05 metres).

Stefka came to know of the tragedy 10 days after her feat. It had a devastating effect on her. But the presence of her child has helped her to get over the sorrow of the death of her close friend and her father's possible paralysis.

Despite the tragedy, Bulgaria went into a week of celebration. But she was understandably in no mood. It didn't matter: Stefka Kostadinova was the Olympic champion.

And the World Champion. Undoubtedly, she is one of the greatest high jumpers in history.

Subhash Sarcar

OUT OF GAS?

Once the toast of team Rothmans Williams, Damon Hill now finds himself out of a job. An investigation into the proceedings

BY K.O. JACOB

OR once racing took a back seat in the Formula One circuit. The glitz, the cars and the drivers rested as the rumour machines in the Fl circuit went into overdrive. No, there was nothing scandalous about the whole affair. It was just that everyone involved in the close knit Fl fraternity were speculating about the future of this year's potential Drivers' Champion Damon Hill.

Before the start of the Italian GP at Monza, it was not the close battle between Hill and Villeneuve that was the focus. Instead, talk revolved on how Hill, who had given team Rothmans Williams Renault the best years of his Formula One career was so unceremoniously dumped by his employer and team owner Frank Williams.

Though the rumours had been raging for some time now, there were no comments of acceptance and denial from either party. Yet, in the week leading up to the Italian GP all it took was a curt phone call from team boss Frank Williams to Hill's manager Michael Breen confirming that Hill could look somewhere else for a job next year.

There were no thank-you's or recognition for a job well done by Damon Hill. Frank Williams probably did not think that the driver who helped him win two Constructor's Championships was worth any applause. Yet, what was puzzling was the fact that negotiations between Hill, Breen and Williams were on for some time and the indications that were given out suggested that after the technicalities of the deal was finalised, the verdict would go in Hill's favour.

What Hill and his manager forgot was the series of precedents that went with team Rothmans Williams Renault. History proves that it was virtually a tradition for the team to discard the services of men who won races, titles and glory for themselves and the team. In 1987, Nelson Piquet after winning the Drivers' Championship, left for Lotus. In 1992, once again acrimonious conditions prevailed when Nigel Mansell succeeded in winning the title before leaving for Indy Car racing. Then again, in 1993 after 'Professor' Alain Prost won his fourth championship, he retired two days

before he clinched his crown because he had discovered that Williams had signed on Ayrton Senna for the '94 season.

The reason why Breen and his client thought that their deal would be different, and that a renewal would be made, was based on a remark that Williams had made earlier this summer on the topic of him discarding his champion drivers. Williams had said, "I've already lost enough world champions and been berated by my sponsors enough, that I would never, ever, do it again."

Whether it had happened before, and whether he was criticised for it before, mattered little to Williams. He certainly realised that even this action of his would get him a lot of flak but he was sure that his ego would be able to handle the damage—as it had done so many times in the past. What mattered to him was that his team should remain the best in the business.

Speculation is rife that it was not Hill's demand for a double hike in his salary (Hill reportedly earned \$7.5 million from Williams this year) that caused his services to be terminated as soon as his contract expired. The reasons for Heinz Harald Frentzen, a driver who has raced in 45 GP races and who only had a third placing, being given the best F1 car in the business lies beyond Hill's demand for a substantial hike. Money as everyone knows was never a problem for Frank Williams and his team.

It was just that Williams was thinking solely on the lines of him and his team remaining the best in the business, and if that called for hurting someone's ego or sentiments, so be it. Williams realised that with Renault pulling out of Formula One after the '97 season, he would need an engine manufacturer who would help him keep his No.1 position in F1. There are indications that BMW could well become the engine suppliers to Williams and it is here that Frentzen's German nationality will come in handy.

Another reason that is being flouted by Formula One experts is that before coming into F1 racing it was Frentzen who provided Michael Schumacher with some of his closest finishes in sports car driving. The logic was that Frentzen probably knew about Schumacher's psyche and driving technicalities better than Hill, but could not deliver the goods in F1 racing because he never got a good car.

Ferrari will definitely provide a much better machine to Schumacher in 1997, a car whose specifications will

From the '97 season Hill will have to prove that he is a driver in his own right and not just a driver who had the best car





The Boss! When Frank Williams (seated) talks, others listen

live up to Schumacher's strenuous driving. It has almost been taken for granted that from next year onwards Ferrari would certainly give team Rothmans Williams a run for their money. Even Frank Williams admitted this when he said, "Schumacher has certainly not been racing to the best of his potential this year, but if he does so next year, we all will have to go to the church more often."

A different theory has it that Frentzen had been approached by Williams immediately after Ayrton Senna's death in 1994, but Frentzen decided not to switch his loyalties from the Sauber Ford team, at least for the time being. The same theorists also say that the deal was struck in 1995 itself, and that Frentzen had agreed, at least in principle to race for Williams in between the Pacific and the Japanese Grand Prix's of 1995. If this theory holds any water, then one cannot figure out why it was kept under wraps all this while, and why all these last minute cloak-and-dagger games actually took place.

The mystery of Frentzen joining Williams was finally solved when Frank Williams finally issued a farewell

statement for Hill which said, "Damon has contributed greatly to the team, both as a test and race driver, and has done an excellent job for us. I think his record speaks for itself, as very few drivers have ever approached his record of 20 wins in 64 starts. He will be missed by everyone at our Grove factory and we wish him the best of luck for the remainder of this year, as well as the future."

With one chapter finally closed, the only block of the puzzle yet to fall into place is the team for which Hill would be racing for next year. Provided he wins the Drivers Championship, he is still 13 points ahead of Villeneuve after the Italian GP where he spun out in the 6th lap, Hill's bargaining powers will certainly increase. As Bernie Ecclestone, the FIA supremo put it, "Damon's obviously going to win it. This will probably make him drive harder and better. It will spur him on. He might have thought he would have another chance, anyway, if he blew it this time, but now he knows he hasn't." But one thing is for sure. No one can give Hill an impressive machine like Williams, and from next year onwards it will be Hill's driving skills and not the dream machine that will make him take the chequered flag first.

Damon Hill has realised this point fully and has



understood that he has come to the most crucial juncture of his Formula One career. Hill recently made it very clear that he was in no hurry to sign across someone's dotted line when he said, "It has to be the right team, the complete package. I want a competitive car, but I want the right package too and that may include a team that has the ingredients to make a step forward and become a winning team." What Hill meant was that he would opt for a team which would be interested in the man within the racing helmet and not just fall in love with a champion driver, that is if he became one.

Once the season is finally over Damon Hill will have to ponder over his options which for the time being revolves around three teams — McLaren Mercedes, Jordan-Peugeot and Stewart Ford. Mc Laren's managing director Ron Dennis has apparently offered Hill 10 million pounds for his services next year, to replace Mika Hakkinen whose contract expires this year. The trouble here is that in case Hill signs for McLaren he will team up with David Coulthard his former team-mate at Williams, and chances are that Mercedes would not like an all-British drivers line up. But, if Ron Dennis manages to iron out the introcacies

Damon Hill...left out in the cold. Where does his career graph go from here?

McLaren-Mercedes would certainly be a better option for Hill.

If he joins Jordan-Peugeot Hill will finally have to step down from the 'premier league' and if he wins the championship he would certainly not want to race for a second-grade team. Hill's third option Stewart-Ford, owned by racing legend Jackie Stewart and his son Paul, are due to announce a huge sponsorship deal, but they are not expected to play a major role, at least in the short term. Hill now 36, is certainly not looking for a team that could become a major player in the long term. Hill knows that he does not have too many years left in the fast lane and he does intend leaving it with his honour intact.

It will be very interesting to watch how Frentzen who has been promoted overnight from a classroom also-ran to the next term's head boy, will perform in 1997. The pressure will also definitely be on Hill to prove that he has it in him, and that it was not just the Williams car that made him win races... that his driving skills also counted.

The story is far from over. In fact, the fun has just begun.

freemeting

were engaged in
conversation on the Euro '96
Championships held in
England, some months ago. My
friend, a football fanatic, began
describing particular moments during
the Championships that interested
him. As he talked about those
moments, which I had also seen on
TV, it took me a great deal of effort to

dredge up those particular images

from the mind.

Try this experiment: Two weeks after watching a ninety-minute football international, try to recall images from the match. You will be surprised at how few images you can recall.

I did a random test on my friends. I asked them what they remembered of the Philips Top Ten programme of the previous week. What were the jokes? What were the clothes the comperes were wearing? My friends took a long time to come up with the answers.

GAUTAM PATOLE

Too much TV watching damages the imagination irreparably

And when I did, the images were not as clear, as vivid, as bright as the dreams that I have at night. It left me bewildered. How come I took so much of time to bring up TV pictures from the mind?

Perhaps, it has something to do with the nature of the TV medium. Images come and go at a tremendous speed. Most of the time, the TV programmer changes the image in less than a second. A second is too little a time to assimilate an image. Then we are bombarded with the next image. And the next. And it goes on. Finally, there are just too many images hitting our minds in too short a time. The result of all this: we retain very few images of a particular match.

Because, in the interval of a week, thousands of other images have been bombarded at the mind. How then to recall images seen, for the duration of less than a second, a week ago? Most of the time, the image washes over the mind and then vanishes, like surf water over a rock.

"One possible reason," says noted historian Daniel Boorstin, "is that TV creates 'chronological myopia' — the tendency to focus on the more recent past."

"When we watch TV," wrote Guy Lyon Playfair, in his book, 'The Evil Eye', "we become mentally passive. On goes the set and off goes the mind."

Apart from our inability to retain images, TV watching damages the

imagination enormously. Because when we watch TV, we don't have 10 use our imagination to produce an image. The TV is doing the work for u

This is in such marked contrast to reading. In reading, the imagination has a chance to produce an image. You read the words; you form the image is your mind. Therefore, the image is more vivid and lasting. Another advantage of reading is that it is done at the speed that you are comfortable with; no programmer can change the image against your will. You are in control of the medium.

Even a picture published in a magazine has more retention value than a TV image. Again, it's because we have so much more time to see it. It does not disappear from view suddenly. We can gaze at it, read the caption, and then when we have fully absorbed the image, do we look at the text or turn the page.

Or take radio. As soon as you start listening, you can sense the immediate sparkling of you: imaginative faculty. As the words are uttered, you have the chance to form the image in your mind. That makes it more vivid than when an image is presented ready-made on the screen

The conclusion is quite clear; too much of TV watching spoils the imagination. We have to see TV in small doses; not in the endless hours that young people and, more especially, children are watching nowadays. As Elaine Moss, children's book writer, said, "if you batter a child with crude, flickering images from morning till night, he will lose the great, imaginative gifts that have been bestowed on him. Second hand, images will vie with, and then vanquish the self-generated image."

So then, what's the solution?

"The antidote to the image," says Daniel Boorstin, "is the book. It is the refuge from the flood of trivia. The book remains the great source of civilisation because of its durability."

Or to put it tongue in cheek: Read Sportsworld/save the imagination,

See TV/become an idiot.

Shevlin Sebastian

FOR SPECIAL MOMENTS

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MARTINA HINGIS: BURN BABY, BURN! RAHUL DRAVID: A MAN FOR ALL REASONS

AVESOME!

He has survived the wrath of fans, critics and his own team-mates. Wasim Akram has proved why he is such a fantastic cricketer

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CONTENTS

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THE BANGALORE BRIGADE!

4

Karnataka is India's latest cricketing nursery

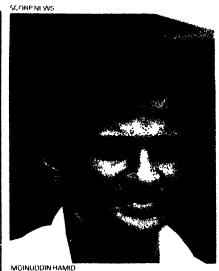
AWESOME!

1.14

A profile of Pakistan's successful captain Wasim Akram

BURN, BABY BURN!

Spotlight on tennis' latest sensation Martina Hingis







10

VINOD KAMBLI: WALKING THE TIGHTROPE

19

GRAEME HICK: CAN HE MAKE IT BACK?

24

PERSONALITY: ANDRE AGASSI

31

TENNIS INDEX

3

COMMITMENT PAES

57

RUSTY RUSTAM AKRAMOV

58

RAHUL DRAVID: INDIA'S CRICKETING HOPE

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF WASIM AKRAM BY MOINUDDIN HAMEED AND INSET PHOTOGRAPH OF VINOD KAMBLI BY ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY



THE BANGALORE

They're cool. They're
professional. They're
achievers. The core
of Indian cricket has
its roots in Karnataka

BY INDRANIL MAJUMDAR

- T was only till recently that Jawagal Srinath and Anil
- Kumble would hunt around

and rice was a dish that the duo missed the most and with none of their teammates hooked on to a veg diet, the problem was confined to these two.

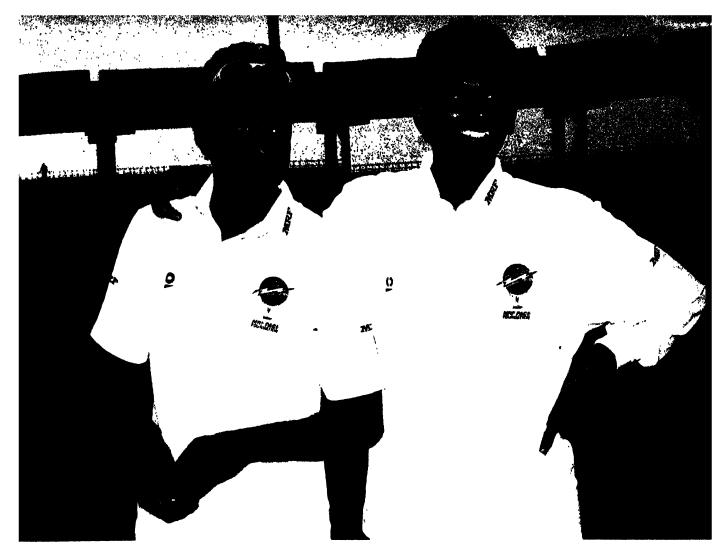
Things haven't changed much, only the number of vegetarians in the Indian team has increased over the months. Srinath and Kumble have been joined by Rahul Dravid, Sunil Joshi, Venkatesh Prasad and David Johnson. Needless to say, trying to sniff out 'southie' food on an overseas tour has become a lot easier.

In cricketing parlance, however, this sudden increase in numbers is directly linked to a radical shift in muscle and power from Mumbai to Karnataka. Mumbai suddenly seems to have been pushed a good few yards

down the ladder by Karnataka. More importantly, the Indian bowling attack seems to be revolving around the Karnataka production line.

The temperate climate and matting wickets in Bangalore have traditionally inspired spinners.
Bhagwat Chandrashekar and Erapalli Prasanna had set the trend in the days gone by. Anil Kumble or Sunil Joshi may not have been coached by any of their illustrious predecessors but their mere presence did have an impact.

It is a co-incidence that Gundappa Vishwanath was the chairman of selectors during this golden period of Karnataka cricket. No fingers of regional bias can be pointed at him. None of the players who have been



BRIGADE!

(Top left) Johnson and Joshi try making a point to Kumble who gives them a patient hearing. (Top) Srinath and Prasad strike a pose for the camera

picked from this region have tailed to deliver and that itself speaks volumes of the immense talent in the state.

Vishy's mere presence had worked wonders even in the past. He was the idol of all aspiring cricketers. Though Chandra and Prasanna had started their careers earlier, Vishy was the Garden City's model cricketer, a recognition of his sterling performances in international cricket.

He was able to bring about a wave of enthusiasm and consciousness unmatched in the state till then. The results were there to show. Along with Vishy, Chandra and Prasanna, there was Brijesh Patel and Syed Kirmani making it to the Indian cricket team. Despite his unassuming

personality, Vishy belongs to that rare breed who can inspire others just by his tremendous personality.

Neighbours Tamil Nadu can also demand a share of the success. The emergence of Srinath and Prasad as frontline seamers is mainly due to the guidance of the legendary Dennis Lillee and his coaching at the MRF Pace Foundation in Madras.

Lillee has made remarkable changes to Prasad's bowling. The inswinger came naturally to him but the outswinger was missing in his armoury in the initial stages. The change in action—from open chested to side-on—brought about a dramatic change. The England tour was another revelation for Prasad. He

has added that extra yard of pace and has proved he can use the old ball to good effect. He is shaping up to be an aggressive, big-hearted, Test bowler.

Srinath, over the years, has been more or less consistent with his performances giving the batsmen plenty to think about outside the off stump. He blends his outswinger intelligently with an off-cutter at times with terrific pace. It is not surprising therefore that Srinath is currently the spearhead of the Indian bowling attack. The talented youngster had been a devoted understudy to Kapil Dev and after his retirement a consistent partner to Manoj Prabhakar till the day he graduated to the ranks of a 'senior'.

Both Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad have the capability to turn things around for India in suitable conditions. The sight of batsmen flinching in the face of an Indian pace attack Indian attack is no longer a rarity these days. Both these bowlers PHOTOGRAPHS SCORP NEWS

will have the pitches of South Africa and the West Indies, known to be sporting and helpful to display their wares in the coming months

If Srinath is fast, then Anil Kumble can safely be termed as 'Mr Dependable' Kumble is in charge of

winning matches for India and he does this on a regular basis. Sure, he does not possess the guile or fiery attitude of Chandra or the class of Prasanna. Nor does he have the traditional floated leg-break that will deceive the batsman with flight and



dip. But Kumble has a shrewd cricketing brain and a whole lot of other weapons that make him effectively lethal. The accepted virtues of slow bowling are length, accuracy and nip from the pitch. Kumble possesses these qualities in fair





(Top)Joshi, Johnson and Dravid. The Karnataka players are a dignified lot both on and off the field.

quantities. His cocktails of top-spinner, flipper and leg-break are deadly enough to deceive the batsmen time and again.

Sunil Joshi the Indian team's newest recruit has impressed with his allround abilities in the few outings he has had so far. No less a pundit than Ian Chappell has compared him to the legendary Bishan Singh Bedi in terms of being a bowler. The tantalising loop in his slow off-spinners, coupled with his accuracy, should earn Joshi a permanent place in the side for some time to come. To his advantage, Joshi can definitely bat a whole lot better than Bedi can and then some. He can call the shots down the order as well as field efficiently — qualities which should help him develop into an ideal allrounder the country has been yearning for since the exit of Kapil Dev and Manoj Prabhakar.

And finally, Rahul Dravid. Test cricket is supposed to be his forte. He has been hailed as the best technically equipped batsman in the land—somebody who could match Sunil Gavaskar's perfection. It may be nice to possess the finest and most stylish technique, but cricket is a hard task master. It requires a perfect mix of tough mental approach, the right

India's speedsters take a respite after a gruelling training session. On any given day the experienced Srinath and Prasad can give a lot of grief to batsmen

technique and the right amount of defence and aggression. Dravid may have learnt all these things already since he is a batsman who can give solidity to the often fragile Indian batting line-up.

The striking feature of the Karnataka brigade is their quiet introverted personalities. The flamboyance and flashy approach associated with their Mumbai counterparts is distinctly absent. But the ambition isn't. They possibly believe in performance with a down-to-earth attitude — a quality which is so very rare these days. The way Dravid walked out, five short of his maiden hundred, without waiting for the umpire's decision after snicking to the wicketkeeper in the Lord's Test aptly sums up his psyche and character.

"Even the spectators in the pavilion would have heard the snick," was how he justified it. Not quite unexpected from someone who hails from the same city as Vishy—the man famous for sporting gestures in an unsporting and professional world.

The Karnataka connection is here to stay in Indian cricket (with David Johnson still waiting to make his international debut). The mental toughness and the technical accuracy may have been a product of the competitive and solid infrastructure at the local level. But the dividends are surely paying. And one will not be amused if the list increases.

Is it in the air or is it in the blood? You'll have to look for the answer the next time you visit Bangalore.





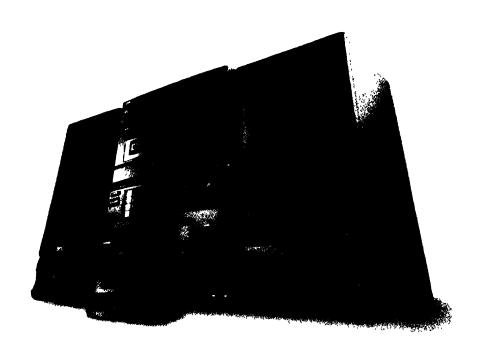
Life is a blur. The only thing vivid is the strident guitar whamming out its frenetic chords. Every nerve end tingles. Every strand of hair stands. Every vein on your neck throbs in time,

while you try to hit the fever-high pitch of the screaming singer.

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VINOD KAMBLI

WALKING THE TIGHTROPE

His honeymoon with fame and fortune is over. It is time for Kambli to fight for his place in the Indian team

BY SUMIT MUKHERJEE

T is a long haul from the chawls of Kanjur Marg in the suburbs of Mumbai to the Cricket, Curling and Skating Club in Toronto. For Vinod Ganpat Kambli the accumulation of all that mileage has also led to a journey of self-discovery.

Barely three years after he hit the expressway to stardom with back-to-back double centuries against England and Zimbabwe and a hundred in his maiden Test abroad, Kambli's career is at the crossroads from where, unless he rediscovers himself, he may well be heading towards oblivion.

Yes, Kambli is walking the tightrope all right. For far too long he has been an enigma. Now, when it is time for him to stand up and be counted, he is faltering.

Kambli has found it difficult to live up to the high standards he set for himself from his Shardashram school days with that record-busting 600 plus runs partnership with his best friend and teammate Sachin Tendulkar.

Not to say that he hasn't given us illustrations of those occasional flashes of brilliance since then. Like that contemptuously hooked six off Curtly Ambrose during the World Cup game in Gwalior, or that ferocious assault on Shane Warne during the Centenary Cup in New Zealand.

Little gems like these may have their own place in history but in the cold professional world of international cricket, where stars are born only to burn out every other day, productivity is the name of the game.

After his much-publicised return to the Indian team Kambli has hardly done anything of note in the seven games he has played in the Singer World Series and the Sahara Cup.

Three months in the wilderness (post World Cup) should have been enough for Kambli to work on his

It's time for Kambli to literally pull up his socks and put in some inspired performances for India game and whet his appetite, but not only did he display technical deficiencies, he had put on weight and generally looked a trifle lethargic and cumbersome on the field. The problem with Kambli is that for far too long he has allowed himself to be a prisoner of his own indiscretions.

No one grudges Kambli his earrings or his *desi* (read: Desmond Haynes) look. But, even his most staunch supporters would agree that Kambli has not been able to handle the pressures of fame.

For someone who has come up in life the hard way, Kambli has let himself go once he reached the top

(even if he took the stairs). Fame and adulation has softened the steely resolve which was the hallmark of his batsmanship. Ask anyone in Mumbai and they will tell you what a fighter Kambli is on a cricket pitch, but one fails to recollect when Kambli last scripted an Indian win. When he was required to spend time in the nets to sort out technical snags, he was busy experimenting with his get up.

He is known to have changed pairs of earrings or shave his head or sported a French cut after a cheap dismissal as a superstition, but hardly ever indulged in introspection regarding his game.



Technique has never been Kambli's strong point nor does he possess the straightest of bats. The West Indian fast bowlers had him 'sorted out' during the home series in 1994-95. As is his wont, Kambli did nothing to rectify the flaw.

Two months later, when Aaqib Javed pegged back his leg stump in Sharjah as he shuffled too far and across, the sound of leather hitting the timber echoed across the cricketing world.

Kambli did not make the XI in the last two games and was later relegated to India A ranks. But for Sunil Gavaskar he would probably have not made it back to the Indian team. Gavaskar went out his way to offer tips to the left-hander. He helped him correct his stance, suggesting he go back to the stance that he adopted in his schooldays and also suggested a lower backlift, especially as he was being bothered by the quicks.

It appeared to pay dividends, but sport is a bit like marriage — one has to keep working at it. Unfortunately, Kambli didn't. And, for a change, even the Mumbai lobby, which raised hell

Image is *not* everything. Kembli should now concentrate on his cricket more than anything else

after Kambli was dropped on disciplinary grounds following the World Cup debacle has kept mum this time around.

And this attitude has not pleased Sunny one bit. After the Sahara Cup, he has gone on record saying: "I did not expect anything from Kambli...After all, how long can one keep his place in the team purely riding his luck?"

On the surface it may sound a bit harsh, but the statement reflects Sunny's as well as the nation's huge disappointment with Kambli.

The southpaw has almost come to the end of the long rope given to him by the Indian selectors. The dual successes of Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid means Kambli no longer enjoys a free hit in the middle order, as he did, during the Wadekar-Azhar regime.

Bosom pals! While the elevator has taken Tendulkar to the heights of glory, it seems like Kambli ran out of breath running up the stairs





Yet, the cause is not lost for the ebony-hued batsman. He has a definite role to play in India's cricketing fortunes and the Indian line-up provided he changes his focus. The quest must be for runs, not a new identity in the physical sense of the word. In short, Kambli must start



spending more time in the middle rather than in front of the mirror.

Technical problems, no matter how serious, can be overcome with proper guidance and hours of hard work in the nets. But, Kambli must learn to put his mind before the matter.

Seeking professional help in order to

change or renew one's focus to the game is also the order of the day. Sports psychologists are nowadays part and parcel of every sport and there is nothing wrong if Kambli goes in a for a few sessions of therapy with a top consultant.

If Sourav can overcome a similar

attitude problem, which forced him to spend four years in relative anonymity, there is no reason why Kambli cannot launch his 'second' innings successfully.

The Indian team needs Kambli to be his own master not a shadow of his own self.





BY ROBIN CHATTERJEE

OST people talk about the fact that the road to fame and fortune is arduous and full of pot-holes. They will tell you that these instances in a man's life do not come easily. You have to wipe the sweat off your brow time and again, you have to dirty your hands, you have to make important decisions—some of which will bomb in your face and some of which will help you take that next step forward.

Professional sport in the Nineties is no different. It gives you the impression that the whole thing is a piece of cake. You swallow it and then realise that what's inside you is not confectionary but a time bomb ticking and waiting to blow your insides out. Too late, there is no time to save yourself. So many sportsmen have confessed to being a victim of this 'ticking time bomb'syndrome. Many have claimed to buckle under it. And many have buckled initially but lived to fight another day.

Given the phenomenon mentioned above, I guess Pakistan's cricket captain, Wasim Akram is no different. But he stands out in one small respect: he is a winner.

A chronological dissection of the crosses that Akram has had to bear would make even the hardest of sportsmen shudder. But then it is only necessary...

Question: what would you do if you have been arrested on a drugs charge, on your very first overseas tour as captain?

How do you react when your best friend on tour and fast bowling partner leads a revolt against you and initiates a campaign for you to be removed from the captaincy?

And you get sacked.

How do you handle your days on the field as a professional cricketer thereafter, knowing fully well that half the team is against you. Knowing that you have been stabbed in the back, by people who are virtually family for a major portion of the year and from whom you draw your resources for motivation?

And then the Gods have a change of heart. You try and make peace with the elements and your teammates who have conspired against you. You live to fight another day and what's more, the selectors think that you can be captain once again. Now that Salim Malik has been accused of bribing the opposition. That Moin Khan is not capable and Rameez Raja is really not wanted. So in these very negative situations, the powers-that-be have decided to give you another chance.

Oh joy!

And if you're Wasim Akram, then you repay the selectors by promising to do your best. As a bonus, you tell them, you're going to thrash the living daylights out of India, in India, at the World Cup quarter finals in Bangalore. And then you settle down and wait for the World Cup draw to take its natural course.

The draw has taken its course. Are you lucky, or are you lucky? It's going to be India for breakfast at Bangalore!

And then Akram's dreams once again went bust.

Wasim Akram knows by now that the price of failure can be higher in Pakistan than anywhere else in the world. His dreams of scripting a historic win against India at Bangalore were shattered to pieces. After Pakistan's World Cup defeat at the hand's of the enemy, a mob chanted for him to be hanged, effigies of him were burnt in the streets and not wanting to forget the political angle—an investigation was called for in the Senate, inquiring as to why the side had lost and why Akram himself had not played in the match.

Then a brick was hurled through the window of his home in Lahore.

So we ask ourselves: is Wasim Akram a survivor or is he a survivor? He's a survivor.

Somehow, Akram managed to survive the bloodlust of his countrymen and even managed to placate them by leading his team to a series win against England, following their triumphs in 1987 and 1992. In the event, Akram went on to take 300 Test wickets. And then as a bonus, he

went one step further, he scripted a come from behind series win against India in the Sahara Cup in Toronto. Wasim Akram had absolved himself of all sin and maybe even a little guilt.

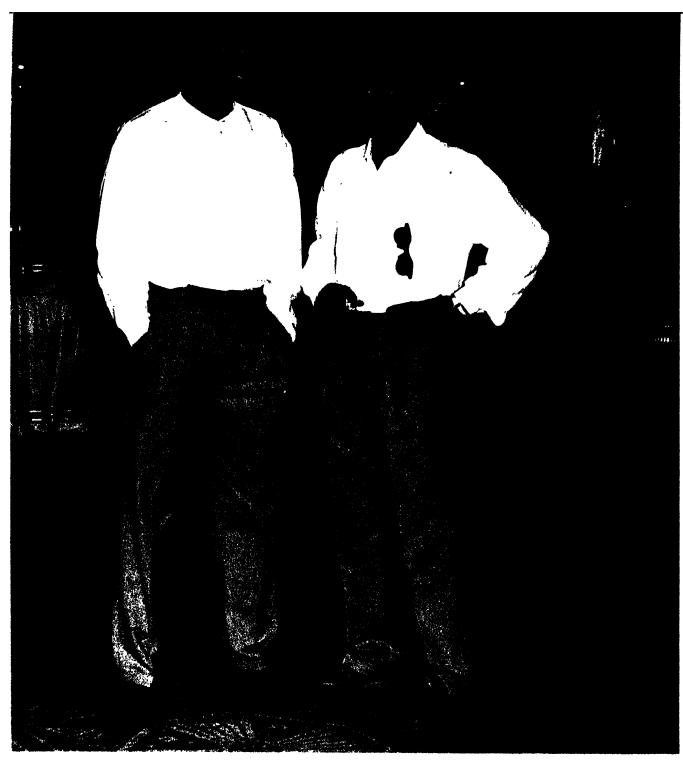
There is a little story in Pakistan which goes like this: Wasim Akram walks in the shadow of Imran Khan. In the face of this, Akram's personal landmarks matter little if at the end of it all Pakistan fail. Today, even when he should be celebrating his back to back successes Akram is under constant pressure because all his achievements are held up in comparison to Imran. Akram himself suffers from a bit of an inferiority complex when it comes down to the topic of Imran Khan. 'Skipper' is how he addresses his idol and it does not matter to him that he might one day end up taking more Test wickets than his mentor (he already has the world record for one-day wickets). What Wasim Akram wants more then ever is to better Imran's record as successful captain by being one himself.

Akram is also desperate for respect, the feeling coming more out of the fact that he now knows what being an outcast means. It is a feeling that he has faced on more than one occasion. Imran never had to feel that day. To the average Pakistani, Imran Khan was a messiah. Wasim Akram, in comparison to Imran's larger than life image, is so far behind that he will never die.

Small wonder that Imran Khan has visions of becoming a Prime Minister. Akram just wants to be a successful captain. Nobody, not even the all powerful politicians of Pakistan, dared to stand up against Imran Khan. But on Akram's return from the World Cup, one of Pakistan's top politicians stood up in the Senate and declared that: "The defeat of the Pakistan team is a defeat for the nation." He wasn't far off from the truth. The same could

Left:

If Akram was the villain in Pakistan after their less in the World Cup, he received a hero's status after the victory in the England series. Picture shows Akram holding aloft the Cornhill Trophy



have been said in India. And for the captains of the two countries it could be a lot worse. Akram did not play in the game against India and even that was made into an issue. The rumour floated for this was that he had received a couple of crores in compensation from the bookies.

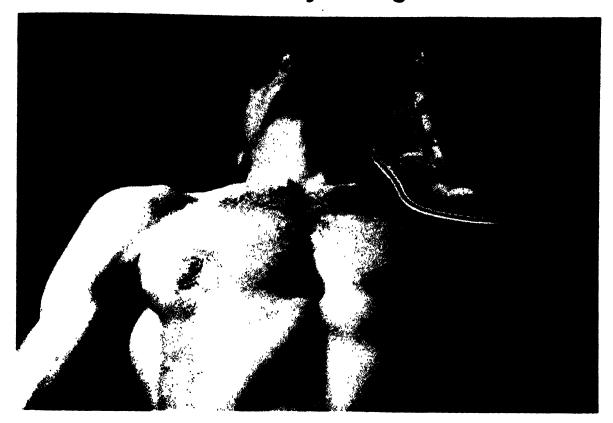
Wasim Akram has managed to justify his reputation as a tireless

competitor in the last couple of months. Two series wins were enough for him to be redeemed. One coming as it did against England (the old Colonial masters) and the other a victorious *jihad* against India. Still there are times, when Akram does claim to feel the pressure. The tension in this case is not generated on the pitch, that is, outside. Rather in

Behind every success story goes in a lot of strategy. Akram and his deputy Aamir Sohail are master strategists and the results are very evident

Akram's case, and given the events of the past, it is from within. Thanks to his wife, Huma, Akram is learning to sort out the inner devils that torment him at times. Huma Akram is a trained psychotherapist. It didn't matter to her that her husband was under her

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Like all preminent sportsmen Akram also turns to golf for relexation

spell anyway, she subjected him to hours of therapy, sometimes even partial hypnosis. The results were quite productive in terms of cricket

It does matter to Huma Akram that her husband is a man of simple tastes, so much so that he even possesses a rare childlike vanity When in England, the Akrams reside in their plush home in Altiincham, a few miles away from Old Trafford, where in his spare time Wasim Akram keeps himself amused by watching movies on video Andy Garcia is Akram's favourite movie star In fact, his friends feel that Akram possesses the mental make-up of a film star He is a sucker for praise and you need plastic surgery to wipe the smile of his face if he has been featured on the cover of a maga/ine

Still he can be level headed at times In this case Akram's immediate priority is to win matches for Pakistan The man functions well under responsibility and this is evident when he is playing for Pakistan or for his county Lancashire Last year when I ancashire were faced with a paucity of players thanks to England call ups Akram operating as captain led by example He took 81 first-class wickets at 19 72 He captained the side to three Championship games winning them all and taking 25 wickets at 16 runs apiece. Over and above all that Akram is one of the most approachable cricketers all over the world having a smile and nice word to say to everybody

Still Akram believes that he could have accomplished so much more if only fate hadn t dealt him such a cruel hand. On the other hand, if he hadn't been faced with his problems he wouldn t have learnt to be a survivor an achiever. Loosely translated it also means that he would not have been on the cover of this magazine.

Well he s on the cover alright And that s one thing which brings a smile to Akram s face ●

A GLORIOUS UNCERTAINTY

Once the darling of English cricket, GRAEME HICK today is being dismissed as a never-was-has-been

BY AFIA SALAM

FTER yet another dismal failure, the axe finally fell on Graeme Hick, who according to many excited English scribes had the attributes to become the next Bradman. He was one of the two players who were dropped from the English side after its comprehensive defeat against Pakistan in the first Test at Lord's.

The downslide had been imminent for the past many encounters, and it almost seemed that his talent had been overrated, and the way he struggled to find his form against the Indians and the Pakistanis proved just that.

Zimbabwean - born Graeme Hick, who turned 30 in May this year, was one of the most talked-about 'imports' of England, whose qualifying period in itself was a subject of much debate. The TCCB qualifying period of ten years was specially reduced to seven in his case, even though there had been a concerted, though unsuccessful, attempt to reduce it to a mere four.

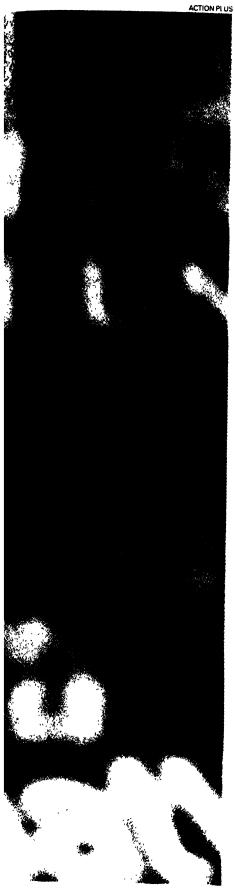
His cricketing prowess, displayed on behalf of, first, his home country Zimbabwe, and then Worcestershire on the county circuit saw him tallying up 50 plus first class centuries against his name.... and all this when Hick was not even 25 years of age.

His phenomenal success with the bat was the reason why the English

PROFESSIONAL SPORT

Graeme Hick: striving hard to please





were so eager to take him into their fold when he did finally decide to switch countries. English cricket, of late, has been desperately seeking players claiming star status, and Hick definitely seemed to be the one.

Statistics do present a very formidable picture of the way he wields the willow, but, somehow, the manner of his failure belies the apparent talent. No doubt, in Test cricket, an average of 35 plus is looked at with a great deal of respect, and the fact that Hick, since making his debut in 1991, already boasts of an average nearing 40, speaks volumes about his contribution to the English side.

Not too comfortable against the pacers, he made a shaky start in his initial outing against the West Indians, but continued to improve in subsequent encounters. However, the times when he would be sitting out in a series started occurring a bit too frequently. To his credit, he wasn't one of those players who piled up runs on the familiar home wickets, but struggled on away tours. Hick, in fact has been better on foreign tours than in a series played at home.

Before the start of the series against India this year, Hick had scored 1,269 runs at home in Tests, which included eight innings of scores over 50, and two centuries. On the other hand, a total of 1,360 of his runs came on foreign tours, of which there were seven were scores of more than 50, and on two occasions he reached 90, and missed the three figure mark by a whisker. He also has two centuries to his credit one against India, and the other against South Africa.

Because of his perceived special position in the English team, Hick was lucky that some senior players assumed the role of mentors for him. Foremost amongst them was his former Zimbabwean colleague, Test cricketer David Houghton, who had seen Hick play since his school days. Former English players Keith Fletcher and Basil D'Olivera too joined the club.

Houghton pointed out the

Most people attribute Hick's failure to the Great Expectations Syndrome that was built around him short-coming of his stance, and adviced Hick to alter it to be able to tackle the short and fast deliveries more effectively. Fletcher adviced him against holding the bat up, while Basil d'Olivera told him about the importance of mind over matter, and the need for having the right attitude more than right technique to see him through at the top.

In an interview with the Wisden Cricket Monthly Hick acknowledged that "I wasn't mentally right, but I am now. Basil kept everything simple and concentrated more on attitude than technique. Fletcher got my hands and feet moving differently and taught me how to work out an innings and shape it, and David helped get sideways so I can deal with the short stuff better. I think I am a more complete player."

Despite the advice and improvement, which saw him having a remarkable 1995-96 season, where he ended the series against the West Indies with an average of 50.38, and the one against South Africa with an average of 48.83, one cannot help but call him erratic for the number of times that he failed, and that too miserably. It was at times difficult to imagine that it was the same batsman playing.

There is a strong lobby amidst critics which also blame the Great Expectation syndrome for Hick's downfall. His run accumulation spree before he was inducted into the English team made his fans expect that runs would keep flowing at the same rate.

However, what the English have always been loath to admit, the difference between the standard of cricket played at the county level, and international cricket is quite substantial.

While it is true that there is a vast difference in the standard, and accompanying pressures of any country's first class and Test level, for the past few years, the standard of the county game has been nothing short of pathetic. Seven years with Worcestershire was not preparation enough for Hick to successfully make the transition into top level cricket.



On that particular circuit there were no pacers anywhere near the level of the ones he faced in his debut series against the West Indians who really made him hop skip and jump

To be fair. Hick became an obvious target of the West Indian pace battery which he couldn't fend off and so he didn't even last out the full series and was dropped after his early failures.

However slowly but surely he started living upto his potential posting confident high scoring innings against all types of opposition and that is how within a five year period in which he played Test matches as well as one day internationals and posted an average of nearly 40 in both varieties of the game

So what happened to him after that? Expectations were sky high when he came to the sub-continent early this

year to participate in the Wills World Cup even though his team didn t find much favour with the bookies However his form proved to be a big disappointment as he failed to deliver the goods—yet again

His run of poor form continued when he returned home to a dull and dreary summer. The Indians came for a visit, and were not a formidable opposition, as the result of the series in favour of England proves.

However instead of hitting himself out of the rut. Hick struggled miserably and failed in all the three Tests. His scores against the Indians were an abysmal 8-16 and 20 whereas prior to the series, he was boasting an average of 38-66, which is considered healthy in all respects.

His performance in the one dayers was erratic to say the least. In the first match, he scored a commanding 91

Hick with Keith Fletcher, the man responsible for correcting Hick's technique

showing a glimpse of his greatness, but was out for a duck in the second one, and scored a modest 32 in the last one—an inconsistent performance if ever there was one

Further failure was on the cards when the Test series began, and his luck seems to have deserted him, as, against the Pakistan team, in the first Test at Lord's he just managed to score 4 runs in each innings. The selectors had given him too many chances and after the first Test defeat, they couldn't risk persisting with him any longer and dropped him in the second.

Maybe a return to the county circuit will enable him to get his act together Once again at Warwickshire he shall have his guide and mentor. David Houghton trying to rebuild his confidence since that is the only way he will get back into the English team.

A person with 88 first class centuries to his credit shouldn't really despair. However, there have been very many players who have been prolific scorers at the first class level, but have failed to carry on that run making spree into the highest grade of the game.

Graeme Hick has his work cut out for him since he has to not only justify the confidence of all those who have been seeing in him another Bradman but has to come to terms with his sporadic bouts of loss of form and fitness

At this stage of his career too many technical adjustments may simply mar his ability to score freely. Not all world class batsmen had access to master coaches who could correct their techniques. Their natural flair plus the ability to pick up tips on the way was what separated the men from the boys. Hick should develop the right mental attitude first—the runs shall return—and he may yet become the youngest player to score 100 first class centuries.

COURTESY THE PAKISTAN CRICKETER

WORLD OF BOOKS

TITLE: TOWARDS PROSPERITY? HOCKEY YEAR BOOK 1995 AUTHOR: K.ARUMUGAM PUBLISHERS; THONDRAL THOMBI PUBLICATION DISTRIBUTORS: CLASSIC PROCESSORS AND PRINTERS PRICE: RS.390 PAGES: 140

O release a book on the exploits of the current Indian hockey team after the 1996 Atlanta Olympics is either an act of sheer bravado or the work of an incorrigible optimist. Author K. Arumugam, a freelance journalist and a hockey afficianado, considers the book as a 'labour of love.' The book, which has numerous profiles, statistics and reports of all matches played by the various national teams plus interviews was released by the Minister of State for Sports, Dhanuskhodi Athithon at a public function on September 4.

Arumugam's initiative is to be complimented. The hardback book in the A-4 size, 11 ins by 8 ins, has been published by the author himself. The author devised a clever method to cover costs. The book has 26 chapters, divided into four sections. Each section has been sponsored.

The first section on the 1995 Indira Gandhi hockey tournament, includes profiles on Dhanraj Pillay, Cedric D'Souza, Baljit Singh, Jude Felix, A.B. Subbiah, Rajbir Rai, Pargat Singh plus comprehensive interviews with Great Britain's astute coach David Whitaker and Phil Appleyard, treasurer of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), is sponsored by sports manufacturers Rakshak. The next section on the Friendship tournament in the summer of 1995 also includes a memorable chapter on the legendary Dhyan Chand and is sponsored by Maharaja.

The third section deals with the Champions Trophy and contains brief



Former hockey international A.B.Subbiah (left), along with Minister of State for Sports, R.Dhanuskhodi, releasing the book, Towards Prosperity?' written by K.Arumugam (third from left)

profiles of India's international stars and an interview with Dato Alagendra of the Asian Hockey Federation and is sponsored by Vampire. The last section is sponsored by Indian Oil Corporation of India Ltd. and highlights India's memorable SAF Games final triumph over Pakistan. Aptly, Arumugam chose India's 5-2 win over Pakistan in the SAF Games final as the victory of the year. The book concludes with an in-depth interview of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) president. Each section has match reports of international games of the main Indian team, India juniors and India A team.

Numerous interesting tit-bits and statistics embellish this book. For instance, we learn that Baljit Singh Saini, nominated as the 'Rising Star of the Year' played 36 internationals, the maximum, for India in 1995 Rajbir

Rai is the only woman in Asia to have played in four Asian Games. Arumugam's choice of Jude Felix as player of the year, is probably a somewhat subjective choice but the author is to be complimented for his racy style and meticulous presentation of facts.

The only blemish in this pioneering yearbook on Indian hockey is the inadequate reproduction and placement of some photographs and absence of captains. For instance, the picture of the Pakistan Hockey Federation president has not been captioned. At Rs. 390, the book is somewhat exorbitant which could lead to purchases mainly by libraries and institutions. It is hoped that Arumugam can undertake such a heroic task annually.

Novy Kapadia



STAR WATCH!

Ever since the "Golden Era" of sports in the Roaring Twenties when larger-than-life champions "Big Bill" Tilden and the incomparable Suzanne Lenglen captured the world's imagination, tennis has shone more brightly than most star-producing sports. As

controversial.

concentrate on those

players who

make the ATP

Tour what it

is today

We

Shakespearean 'stars,' the tragic flaws, loves and social tiffs of leading tennis players have commanded as much attention as their performances on court.

The media's fascination with tennis warmed during the 1950s and '60s. The



After the McEnroe-Connors era, it was Agassi who provided tennis with a much needed personality

charismatic attractions of fiery Pancho Gonzales, mischievous Bobby Riggs, funny Pancho Segura and hunky Lew Hoad were obscured when they were barred from Wimbledon and the other great amateur-only tournaments. As 'outlawed' professionals, they were usually relegated to barnstorming tours in minor-league cities. The advent of Open Tennis in 1968 changed all that and gave every world-class player a shot at the most prestigious championships, and soon enough, staggering prize money and lucrative endorsement contracts became the order of the day.

By the late 1970s, tennis stars had regained celebrity status with household names such as Borg, McEnroe, Connors, Evert and Navratilova. The fixation on the private lives of marquee players — such as the tumultuous affairs of Bjorn Borg, the tawdry "galimony" cases of Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova, John McEnroe's tantrums on court,

the yin and yang of Steffi Graf, and Andre Agassi's glamorous gal pals—heightened the tennis star mystique.

Star appeal is a vague notion cloaking a mystery. Certain people cause a sensation by walking into a room; they give off sparks, excite the masses and hold us with their intrigue. Brandon Tartikoff, chairman of World Entertainment, cited the "sense of mystery and complexity" in movie stars, "You don't know totally what they're thinking or feeling. You can't take your eyes off them. That's what makes them stars."

We can see fascinating and strangely similar themes of courage and triumph, of tragedy and loss, in the careers of tennis' leading characters and those of screen and stage stars.

THE HYPE... AND THE EXPECTATIONS

We are such stuff As dreams are made on

NDRE AGASSI, the engaging rebel without a cause, was tabbed as The Next Great Player as a brash teenager. His dazzling on-court talent, his carefully created image and vast marketing potential quickly thrust him into the media spotlight. This extraordinary symbiosis of attention and wealth, lavished on him prior to winning any major tournament, proved "more of a curse than a

blessing," as Agassi admitted in 1991. However, it did help him garner colourful TV commercials and gigantic endorsements, such as Nike's reported \$100 million deal.

Generation X icon Agassi, the top-seeded player in the Anti-Establishment Cup Match (he once disparaged the esteemed president of the International Tennis Federation as "a bozo"), blazed fashion trails with his denim shorts, nail polish, dyed hair, bandanas and earrings on court. He hung out with Barbara Streisand, proposed to beautiful actress Brooke Shields (under a waterfall), and gave tennis the soap opera it longed for as bad boys McEnroe and Connors faded from the scene. The rebel Agassi is the James Dean of tennis, the boy-king of promise and youth.

The downside of the media hype was that the excessive exposure magnified already great expectations. The burden of having to live up to the Agassi legend stifled the fire needed to bring his game up to a consistently high level. The pressure of having to winfirst to please his fanatical father. Mike, and then his famous coach, Nick Bollettieri, at a tennis academy he hated - surely hurt him, and he lost his first three Grand Slam finals, despite being favoured each time. The infrequent peaks in his career, his Wimbledon, United States and Australian titles, only suggested that there could have been -and may still be-so much more Agassi seemed especially haunted by his "Image is everything" camera commercial a message that his critics claimed summed up his checkered career.

Yet, beneath the surface of the tinsel and glitter, we often catch glimpses of a candor and simplicity in Agassi that is refreshing. He blasted the ATP Tour's ranking rule that counts only a player's best 14 tournament results, rightly saying "Every time you step on the court, something should be on the line". He graciously praised archrival Pete Sampras for having "the game of the future." Hailing from Las Vegas, once the second home of Elvis Presley, Agassi has the King's generous touch. During one three-year period, Andre like Elvis, purchased 50 cars as gifts to family and friends, and his foundation has donated \$2 million to organisations benefitting disadvantaged and at-risk children in his hometown.

The above is a serialised article. It will be carried over four parts. Next Issue...The Enigmatic & The Embroiled

BY FARA BETHANY AND PAUL FEIN

BURN BAB' BURN!

Talented teenager, MARTINA HINGIS is ready to take a shot at the big time

C HE was smiling. A 196 kph serve had just whizzed past her outstretched racquet, and 15-year old Martina Hingis was smiling her Mona Lisa smile, a smile that is all set to launch a hundred advertisement campaigns. "For her it is an exhibition, it's fun. For her it's just a game. She can see it like that," said Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, the biggest server in the woman's game and the 11th seed in the Australian Open tennis championship, who was handed out a humiliating 1-6, 4-6 fourth round defeat by the teenager with the Mona Lisa smile.

Even in a sport whose history is embellished by a long line of teen superstars, Martina Hingis is very, very special. Surely, women's tennis has seen nothing quite like her since a giggling Monica Seles offered flowers to her opponents and then sliced them up like slabs of cheese at the French Open championship in 1989.

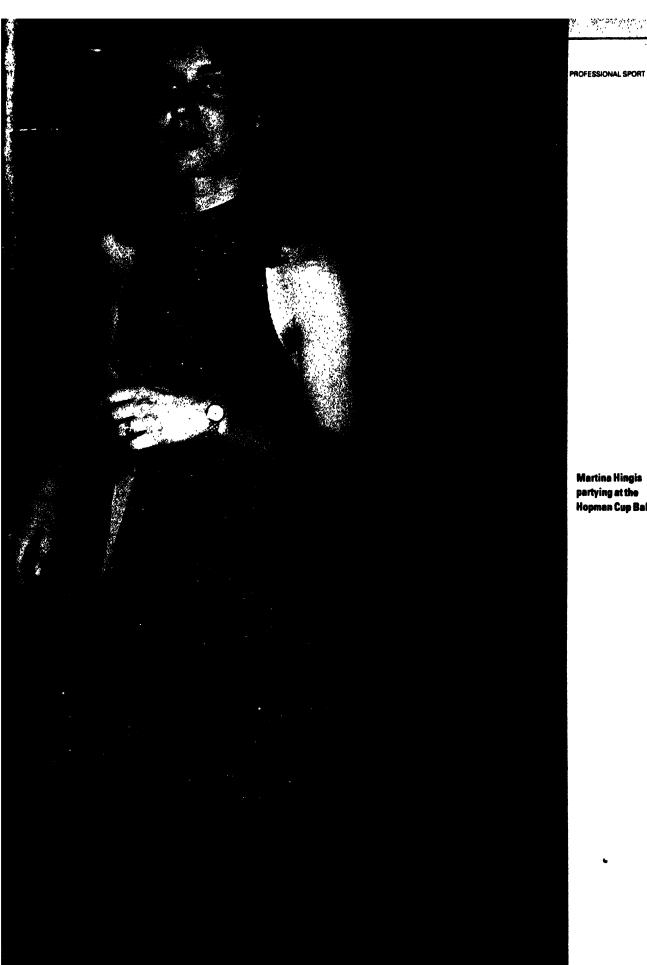
"She is amazing. She's got so much talent. I can't imagine how far she can go," said Schultz-McCarthy who had also lost to Hingis in the Hopman Cup mixed doubles championship earlier in January 1996. From John Newcombe down to Wendy Turnbull, a long line of experts have forecast their predictions about Hingis' potential. And nobody who has anything to do with tennis would doubt that her's is the face of the future of women's tennis.

Martina Hingis resides in
Switzerland and English is fast
becoming her primary language if her

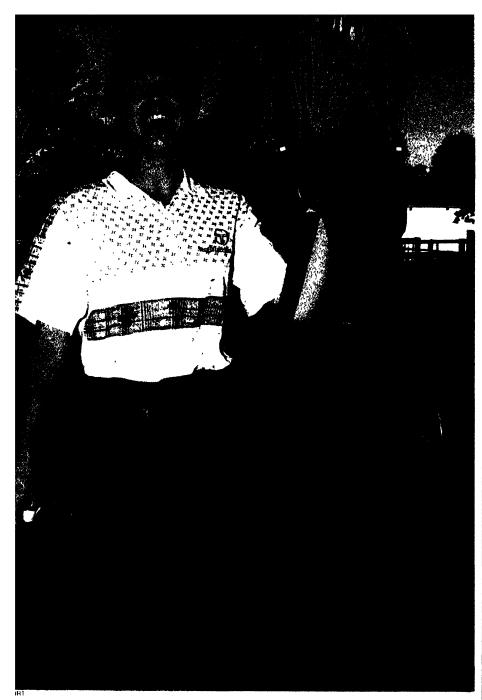
press conferences in Flushing Meadow were any indication. Her mother and coach, Melanie Hingis Zogg, named her after Martina Navratilova, but ironically die-hard tennis aficionados have studied her game and liken it to that of Chris Evert. Hingis is also a fearless equestrian and skier, but she plays her tennis in a prudent, conservative baseline style. And in the end she may have more personality than drive, and more talent than discipline. For all of these reasons you might expect this young lady to enjoy the diversity of New York and thrive in the melting pot of the U.S. Open.

Melanie (her mother), a ranked player in the chilly pre-glasnost days in Czechoslovakia, divorced Martina's father, a tennis coach and administrator in Czechoslovakia, when Martina was just three years old. Mother and daughter then moved to Switzerland, where Melanie met and married a Swiss businessman Andreas Zogg, who works in computers. The family then set about their life's work: raising Martina as a tennis player, a potential champion.

As a former player and student of the game, Melanie has helped Martina to develop a game that radiates intelligence and makes her seem wise beyond her years. As Lindsay Davenport says: "Martina has excellent ball sense and a fine tennis mind. She has command of all the tools. For instance, she can play the forehand down the line (instead of crosscourt) much more often and



Martina Hingis partying at the Hopman Cup Ball



unpredictably than most women". Hingis can also dictate the pace of a game, irrespective of who she plays. As she says: "I can do a lot of things, and I like to play variations. I have so many choices: sometimes that I'm not sure what to do with the next ball, and that's my problem".

But there is a legitimate, thorny question about whether or not the type of strategic, subtle game that Hingis plays can survive in this age of fierce baseliners who increasingly hit the ball with so much power that they

stop even constructive baseline players from practising their craft. Happily a fine run of tennis between the first-round of the Federation Cup matches and the French Open helped lift Hingis ranking to No. 18. Soon, she had wins over two power players: world No. 4 Iva Majoli (in Fed. Cup) and No. 1 Steffi Graf (in Rome). In the current year, she had losses to two other players with muscular games: Mary Pierce (in Hamburg) and Karina Habsudova (in Paris). With her high ranking Hingis has become the proverbial "good win" for all the

Apart from skiing and tennis, Hingis is also an accomplished rider

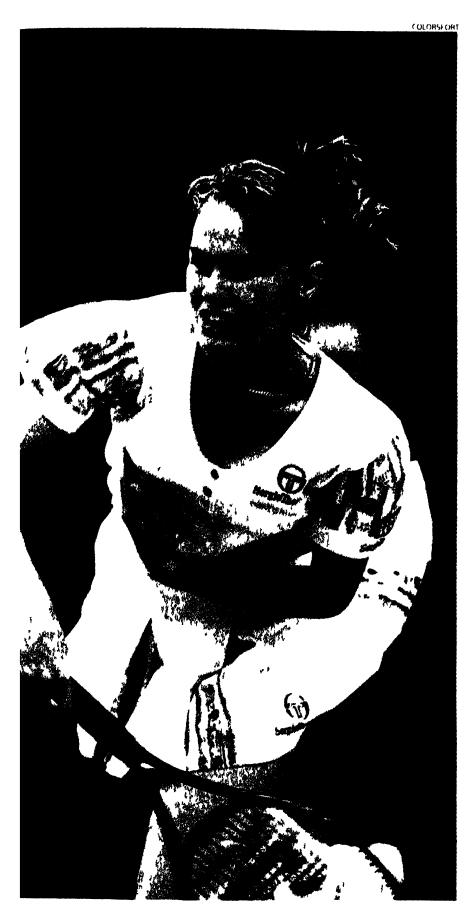
women who are ranked below her. Some portion of her success-or failure-will be predicted on how she handles that pressure.

For starters, Hingis certainly could help her own cause by developing a more authoritative second serve, because the current version allows her rivals to hit winners or seize control of the point too easily. But she believes that her serve will improve as she gets bigger, stronger and more experienced.

But, then, what of the present? Does Hingis not have a game that is good enough to win a major championship here and now? Well, in terms of shot making and tactical maturity, you have to admit that this precocious 15-year old has it all. Women's tennis has had any number of teen phenoms, but when it comes to Hingis, you can think of only two great teen champions to compare her with—Seles and, before her, Chris Evert. And the way Hingis hits her double handed backhand is certainly reminiscent of the great Evert. So, of course, are her strength of mind and will to win.

"My life for me is very normal, because I've already played tennis for 10 years" Hingis says, "I've played tournaments since I was six years old. I always knew that I would be a tennis player, but I never felt pushed to be one, and I never worried about how good I could become. I think I'm doing pretty good for my age, but it isn't because I was in a big hurry to go to the top."

Through all that, the 15-year old Czech believes in "having fun on the court". This, of course, was evident when Hingis hit an underarm serve in the first set of her match at Melbourne at the Australian Open early this year. Asked if it was meant to confuse her opponent, Hingis said, "like Michael Chang at Roland Garros. It was fun." Well, for four older opponents over a span of eight days at the U.S. Open it was hardly 'fun' as Hingis blasted her way to her first ever Grand Slam semi-finals.



Hingis a pretty face with talent to match

Hingis beat the heat at last month's U.S. Open with a brisk victory in the opening stadium court match against 112th-ranked Angeles Montolio of Spain 6.1.6.0. She won in precisely one hour to get the season's last Grand Slam fortnight underway on a brilliantly sunny day at the National Tennis Centre. It was very hot and I didn't want to stay long on the court said a checry Hingis who had no wornes against the Spaniard. To have the first match in the stadium and the first match at the US Open was very nice.

The US Open has been lucky for Hingis. She then went on to stun third seed Arantxa Sanchez. Vicario of Spain (6.1.3.6.6.4) in a fourth round match and then Jana Navotna to advance to the semis of the women's singles at the U.S. Open. Both these matches underlined her talent. Hingis who turned pro in October 1994 and has steadily worked her way up the rankings to world No. 16 reached the quarterfinals of a Grand. Slam for the second time after making the last eight at the Australian Open in January.

This is a Grand Slam—she said adding that Arantxa Sanchez and Novotna not casy players—Hingis leaped for joy after the Spaniard who had reached the final of her last five tournaments—including the Olympics was more than happy with her win The match itself was not without its strange twists—with a pair of bad overrules by the chair umpire causing frustration on both sides of the net and a match point that was interrupted by a rolling water bottle. However—in the end—talent won over resilience

The recent flowering of Hingis's personality has been a delightful and welcome surprise to most spectators and the tennis cognoscenti. However it is better to be cautious than to get carried away given the history of some recent prodigies. How long Hingis stays in the game may be a more pressing question than how far she can use in the rankings.

TS Venkataraman





TENNIS INDEX

COMPILED BY PAUL FEIN

HAT Monica Seles says was "one of the biggest mistakes of my life": Reacting to criticism by forcing herself not to grunt during the 1992 Wimbledon final against Steffi Graf.

Wimbledon finalist
MaliVai Washington won in
his six previous Wimbledons:
3.

DDS established by a London betting agency that a streaker would cross Wimbledon's Centre Court at the men's or women's final this year: 5 to 1.

HAT Andre Agassi says his goal in life is: "To succeed as a father."

HAT the bodyguard that Steffi Graf hired for Wimbledon had to do because he couldn't keep up with the fast-paced superstar: He bought a pair of black running shoes.

(policemen) that accompanied surprise Wimbledon quarterfinalist and new British hero, Tim Henman, in and out of the tournament grounds: 5.

HAT happened when Luke Jensen bear-hugged his brother Murphy after their shocking victory in the 1993 French Open doubles final: He broke Murphy's nose.

** UMBER of the ten fastest recorded servers on the ATP Tour since 1991 who are German: 4 (Markus Zoecke, Michael Stich, Boris Becker and Lars Rehmann).

OW May Sutton caused a stir at the 1905
Wimbledon
Championships: She played with her sleeves rolled up.

OUNG player that Bjorn Borg says "has a great chance at being the next No.1": Sweden's Thomas Enqvist.

HAT Arthur Ashe recommended tennis players do after watching Grand Slam tournaments on TV: "Go right out and play as soon as the match is over."

DVICE that Formula
One driving star Ayrton
Senna, who perished in a
crash, gave Monica Seles
five months after she was
stabbed: "You never know
when it's going to end, so
live every day."

** UMBER of matches that Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek won at Wimbledon in 1994 and 1995: O.

ANKING of Alex Radulescu, the 1996 Wimbledon quarterfinalist, in Germany: No. 14.

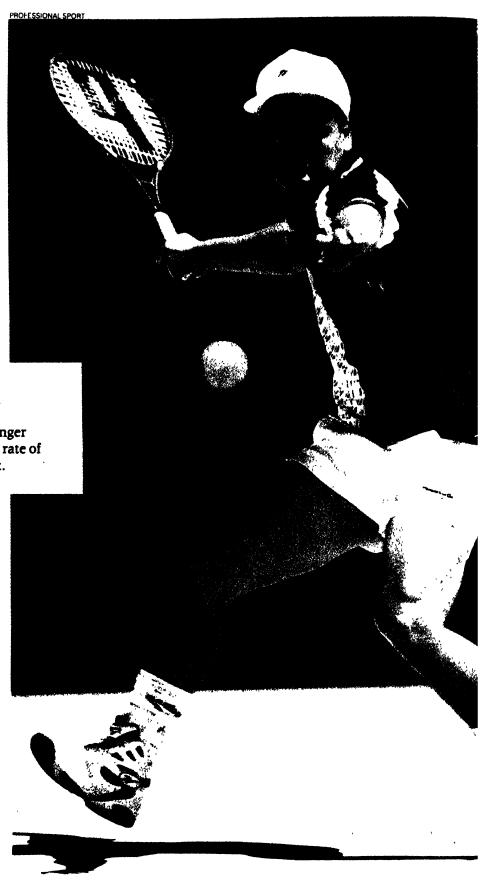
Y OW President Richard M. Nixon punished his Cabinet for not being more supportive: He ordered the removal of the White House tennis court.

> FOW much Michael Chang claims his switching to the new longer racket has increased his rate of service aces: 43 per cent.

HAT Andre Agassi says is the first thing you do when you get on the court with Pete Sampras: "Try not to be embarrassed."

C IZE of the Melbourne crowd who turned out to welcome home Margaret Smith in 1963 after she became Australia's first Wimbledon women's champion: 100,000 people.

FER CENT of all forehands that are hit with one or both feet off the ground, according to a study of the top 110 men and women players conducted by sports scientist Richard Schoenborn and the German Tennis Federation: 90. **32**





OLITICIANS who endorsed Ilie Nastase for mayor of Bucharest: Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riodan and former New York city Mayor David Dinkins.

HAT former NBA standout and World
Team Tennis player John
Lucas believes Michael Chang
could have been
"unbelievable" as: A
defensive guard in basketball.

HAT Karolj Seles,
Monica's father, did
after her 14-year-old brother,
Zoltan, said he wanted to be a
tennis player: Karolj drove
ten hours to Italy and brought
back a racket for Zoltan.

IND of balls that were compiled 10 times more formany other sport a balls at the Adhesi Clympic Gauss levens (38,400)

UMBER of hours of tennis coverage German television provided in 1984:

UMBER of hours of tennis coverage German television provided in 1993: 2, 673.

HO Goran Ivanisevic came to the 1996 Wimbledon Championships with: A trainer, masseuse and a Catholic priest.

EASON why naturally righthanded Sabine Appelmans plays tennis lefthanded: She insisted on being with her friend in the lefthanded group when she took her first tennis lesson.

ASTEST recorded time for the Wimbledon grounds crew to put the tarpaulin on Centre Court when rain stops a match: 41 seconds.

represented in the men's singles and doubles draws at the Atlanta Olympics: 37.

UMBER of perfect shots that Andre Agassı says he hits perfectly: 5.

GE at which Steffi Graf received her first tennis sponsorship deal: 8 (with Dunlop-Slazenger).

of Japan's Kinue Hitomi, a track & field star in the Twenties, who is widely recognised as the world's first great female all-round athlete: Tennis.

HAT clay court star Thomas Muster, who has never won a match at Wimbledon, built on his property in Austria: A grass court.

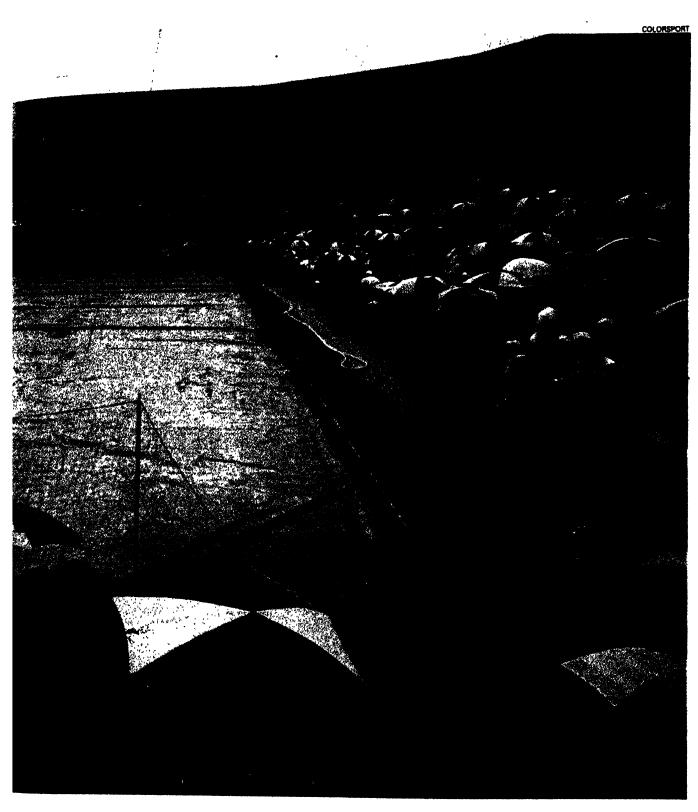
daily attendance for tennis at the Atlanta Olympics among the world's tennis events: Fourth (after Wimbledon, US and French Opens).

ELEBRITIES who sent letters and flowers to Monica Seles soon after she was stabbed in 1993:
Michael J.Fox, Barbara
Walters and Michael Bolton.



, UMBER of times more restrooms that the rebuilt and renovated National Tennis Center, the site of the US Open, will have in 1997: 4.

ERSONAGE who sent black star Atthea Gibson a letter of congratulations right after she won Wimbledon in 1957. President Dwight D. Eisenhower.



UPERSTAR who served as a linesman at the Rene Lacoste-Henri Cochet semifinal match at the 1926 U.S. Championship: Bill Tilden.

PEED of one Mark
Philippoussis's four
second serve aces against Pete
Sampras at the 1996
Wimbledon Championships:
126 m.p.h.

OW Rick Macci describes
15-year-old phenom
Venus Williams: As "a unique
combination of [Monica]
Seles and Martina
Navratilova."



ENGTH of imprisonment that Gunther Parche, who stabbed Monica Seles, testified "I will probably get" for his crime: 15 years.

IMBLEDON
quarterfinalist Tim
Henman's golf handicap: 2.

OW much Andre Agassi says longtime rival Michael Chang improves every year: 7 per cent.

hat British Davis Cup captain John Lloyd makes rocket-serving Greg Rusedski do to practise his volley during workouts with Cup teammates: Hit only second serves.

describes his entire personality: "My second serve-because I go for it."

HAT 1950s superstar
Maureen Connolly did
just before she died: She gave
her daughter Cindy a list of
the books she wished Cindy
would read.

HAT Paul Annacone likens coaching superstar Pete Sampras to: "Putting oil in a Ferrari."

ENGTH of the charge sheet on which German authorities have formally charged incarcerated Peter Graf with tax evasion: 237 pages.

UMBER of household around the world that watched the 1996 Australian Open on TV: 586 million.



In the past the ball * used for a particular sport was called Gossima. Which game are we talking about?

In a sport the referee uses a stick measuring 70 cm, and on both sides of the stick is a white and blue flag which measures 35 cm x 20cm. Identify the sport.

Who won the first tennis tournament open to both amateurs and professionals?

When and where was India bowled out twice in the same day against England?





'I'm a citizen of the · U.S. My world record in pole vault with the aid of a bamboo pole was never broken.But in 1957 my record was finally broken, but with a metallic pole.' Who am I?

Who is the first woman to cross the six-feet barrier in high jump?

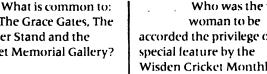
A certain Dr. Kono was the person who popularised this sport. In 1882 he introduced it in his training centre. Only in 1964 did it become an Olympic sport. Identify the

What is common to: The Grace Gates, The Warner Stand and the Cricket Memorial Gallery?

Ravi Shastri created a record when he took 36 runs in an over off Tılakraj. What other world record was set by him in the same innings?

Who was the first woman to be accorded the privilege of a special feature by the Wisden Cricket Monthly?

D. Haynes, W.R Endeau, Moshin Khan and A. Hilditch share an unique achievement. What is it?



ANSWERS

- 1. Table tennis.
- 2. Water Polo.
- 3. Ken Rosewell.
- 4. In 1952 India got all out for 58 and 82 at Manchester.
- 5. Kornellius Wormerdam.
- 6. Avolanda Balas.
- 7. Judo.
- 8. All are situated at the hallowed Lord's cricket ground.
- 9. Shastri took only 113 minutes to score the fastest double century in first-class cricket.
- 10. Enid Bakewell in 1980.
- 11. They have all been declared out for handling the ball.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



BINAYAK DAS PURKAYASTHA. 165/B. EAST MALIGAON. GUWAHATI. ASSAM - 781 011.

All answers sent in by contributor. Readers are requested to sent in atleast 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quizzes.

COMMITMENT PAES

Leander Paes may have lost the Madras Challenger but he is giving vital signs that the best of him will be on offer very soon

FROM AMITAVA DASGUPTA, MADRAS

EANDER PAES has a ť problem, somewhat self-manufactured Whenever he plays a match these days, he is expected to beat the stuffing out of his opponent. Or, in the worst case, go down guns blazing, like he did on two August afternoons in Atlanta and New York against Andre Agassi Any deviation from the expected patch sets the ball rolling for bitter post-mortems and harsh inferences. No sooner had he lost tamely to little-known Uzbekistani Oleg Ogorodov in the final of the Madras ATP Challenger that the tennis fraternity was abuzz with predictable questions Has Leander's game really developed or was the honeymoon in America a passing phase? Can be finally break that magical three-figure barrier on the ATP computer?

Let's get one thing clear at the very outset Leander is not often going to produce the kind of magic he whipped up against Agassi at the US Open Not many players have come within a stroke of leading Agassi 6-3 5-0 on a hard court. Not many are going to do it in the future either. As Pete Sampras observed Leander was playing out of his mind. And one can't play out of his mind every time he steps on to the court But the very lact that Leander did it once albeit for half the duration of the match suggests that the Indian pro is an above-average tennis player who does not deserve to be ranked as low as he is right now

A \$25 000 Challenger is the lowest rung of the AIP Four structure and certainly not the ideal stage for an upwardly mobile pro like Leander to parade his talent on II the Olympic

bronze-medallist still preferred to play in Madras, enduring a 60-hour voyage through three continents to be at the venue just in the nick of time, the reasons were as much sentimental as professional. The true patriot that Leander is he did not want to deprive his countrymen the chance of seeing him perform in the first tournament at home since the historic Olympic coup. At the same time, he sought to pick up some cheap points after months of hard slog with the big boys.

The field at the Madras Challenger was water-thin in terms of quality. There were withdrawals galore leaving Leander and Ogorodov as the only two top 200 entries. As many as 17 Indians managed to sneak into the main draw, thus providing them an unique charce of getting into the ATP computer. That none of them (Mahesh Bhupathi included) survived two rounds, barring Leander, is another story.

A couple of 19-year-olds
—Belarussian Max Mirnyi and Slovak
Martin Hiomec did show the promise
to graduate to the big league in the
years to come but there was none
with a realistic chance of preventing a
Leander versus Ogorodov showdown
While the top-seeded Uzbek went into
the final with the benefit of a couple of
solid workouts in the oppressive
weather, Leander had not at all been
stretched in three matches

The six-foot-four Ogorodov, a 24-year-old coached by former Wimbledon runner-up Alex Metieveli has a remarkably similar career graph as I eander but for the fact that he turned pro two years after the Indian Both have enjoyed some impressive runs on the Tour in the last three years without being consistent enough to join the top-100. On the evidence of his Madras performance,

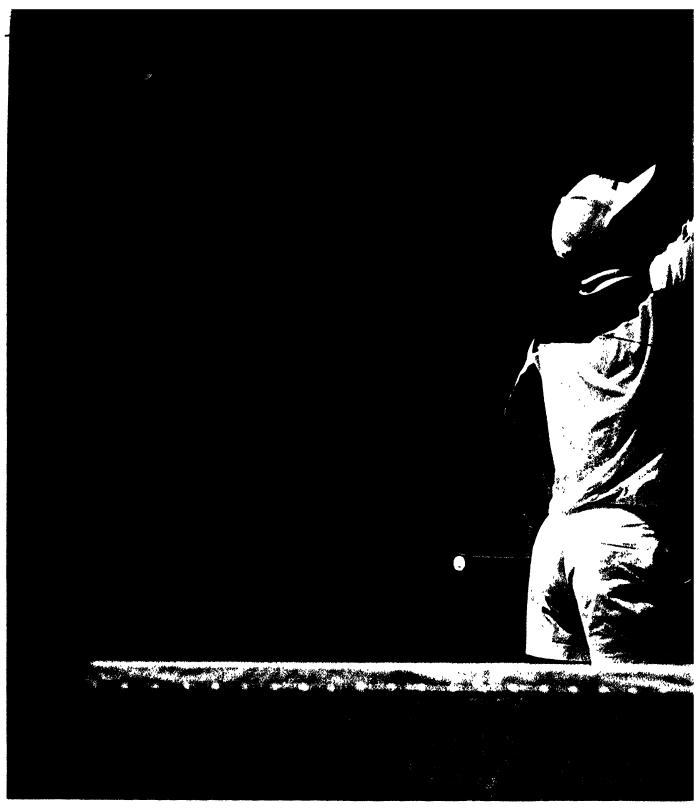
Ogorodov looked a gifted player with enviable groundstrokes. His biggest enemy is a fragile temperament which snapped almost beyond repair in the semi-final against Mirnyi. In the final though, Ogorodov stayed calm concentrated hard and pressured Leander with a deluge of passes and winners from the backcourt.

Up against a classy opponent for the first time in the week. Leander struggled to get into a groove. The pressing forehand, which Leander has fine tuned into a surprise weapon did not have the bite to hurt Ogorodov consistently. His serves didn t function either what with the first delivery percentage (below 40) and ace count (three) dipping way below the high standards he has set for himself in the last couple of months But what crippled him totally was his dismal net-play. For years, this used to be Leander's forte Suddenly he seems to have lost the touch and the timing while hitting the volleys. What has happened is that in his trige to strengthen his serves and the forehand. Leander has neglected his volleying The Ogorodov match served as a wake-up a call-reminding Leander he was no Edberg or Sampras and that he needs to keep working on his volleys just as much as on his other shots

Another aspect of his tennis Leander would do well to think about is his rapidly vanishing 'aggro—But for the odd match against an Agassi or someone of his stature. I cander is the ghost of his normal self one had got used to seeing over the years. Raw aggression—which manifested itself in those fist-clenching gut-wrenching yells—was what

If Leander Paes continues to play dream tennis like he has been doing for the past couple of months he may soon get into the top 100



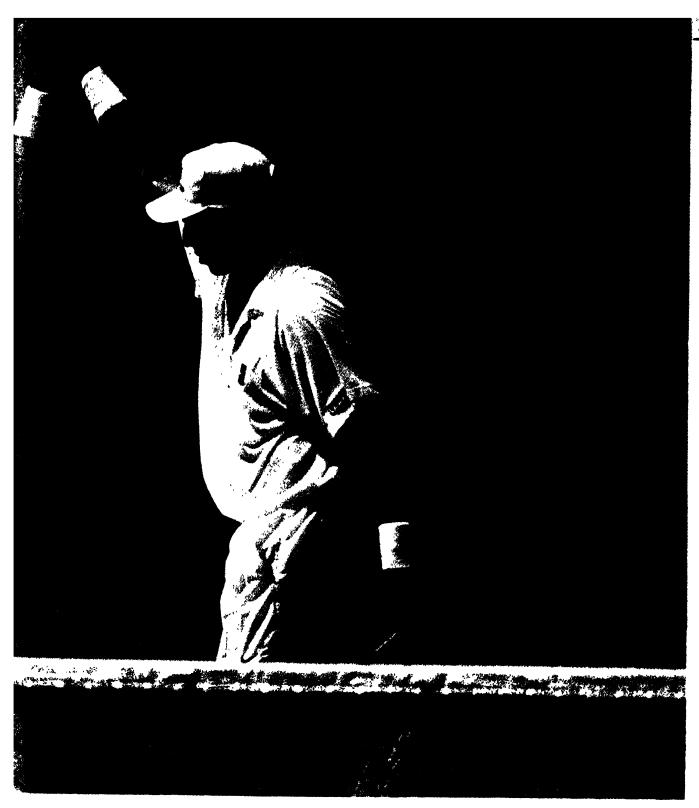


Leander believed in. And, it worked, too, as long as he didn't overdo it. That was Leander's tool to set the adrenalin boiling—very much a necessity in Leander's case as it's a part of his psyche. By sobering down to be a quiet performer on court, Leander often misses the chance to turn things

around and dictate when the chips are down. The only time he got excited and pumped up in the match against Ogorodov, Leander rediscovered his volleying touch to clinch three points and break serve. He must find a way of egging himself on even on smaller occasions, because he won't be in a

position to rub shoulders with the big men on the big stages frequently enough unless he maintains a healthy consistency in winning matches at this juncture.

One poor match can be anything but the end of Leander's world, specially at this stage, when his tennis

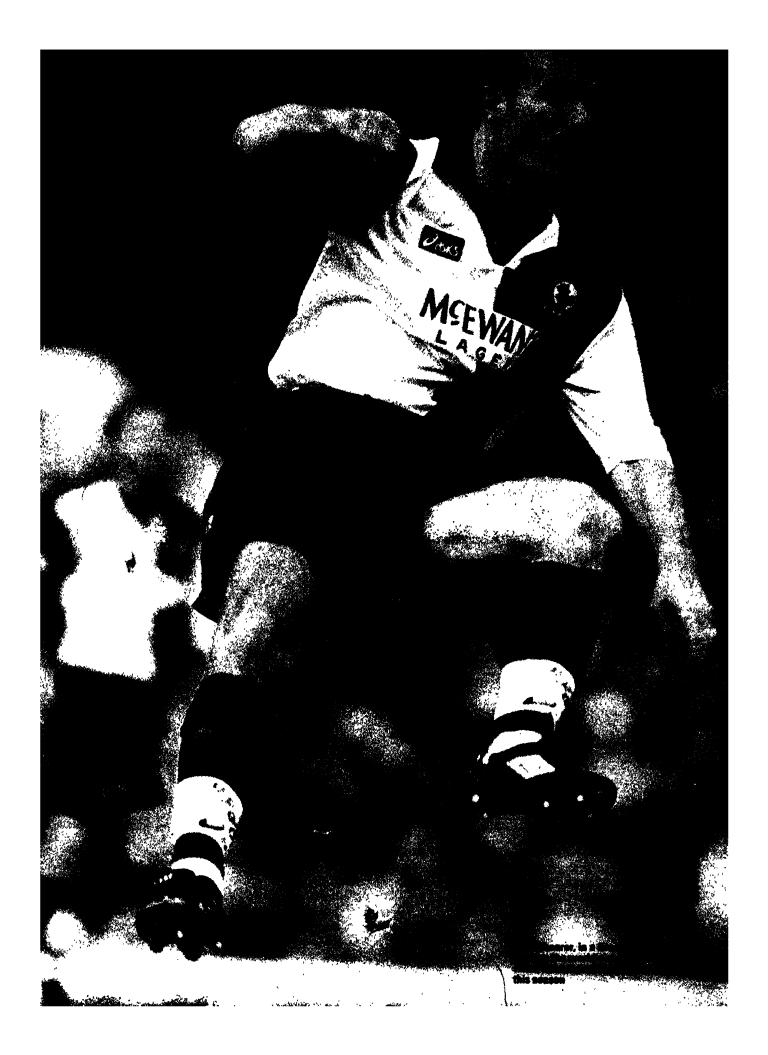


is showing distinct signs of improvement and he is feeling more comfortable on the Tour with the back-up of a support system made up of trainer Mike Rada, girlfriend Aneesa Mukerjea and doubles partner Mahesh Bhupathi. "Yeah, things are looking up... I've always done well

when I've had close people around me. Now I have three and am looking to add a coach," Leander said in Madras, not unduly worried over the loss to Ogorodov. The coach selection would, probably, be the most important factor guiding Leander's progress in the ensuing two years

Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi; en awesome combination. But how far can they proceed in the pro-circuit?

which will certainly make or break his career in singles. Doubles could well be a different story, if he and Bhupathi stick it out together for at least one year.



EURO SOCCER ROUNDUP

With the decline of the purchasing power of the lira, Italian football has been unable to prevent the flow of top stars to the English Premier League

The Most Expensive Player In The World

THE world's most expensive transfers took place in Europe this summer. England's striker Alan Shearer went from Blackburn Rovers to Newcastle United for a world record fee of 15 million pounds. Another talented striker, the Brazilian Ronaldo, hailed the next Romario, was transferred from PSV Eindhoven to Barcelona (now managed by former England manager Bobby Robson) for 12.8 million pounds. For the first time in a decade, the world record transfer fees does not involve any of the Italian clubs.

In the history of football, there have been five transfers of 10 million pounds and over. Besides Shearer and Ronaldo, the other three megabuck transfers took place in 1992, all involving Italian clubs.

Talented Gianlugi Lentini, who is rated the winger of the Nineties. moved from Torino to AC Milan for 13 million pounds and Gianluca Vialli went from Sampdoria to Juventus for 12.5 million pounds. Ace French striker Jean-Pierre Papin was transferred from Marseille to AC Milan for 10 million pounds. TV magnate Silvio Berlusconi, the boss of AC Milan, spluiged to buy success. Sadly, Lentini got injuryed in a car crash and was never the same player again. Papin also never clicked at Milan. Berlusconi eventually realised that megabucks do not ensure success on the football field.

Football transfer fees have spiralled

in the last few decades, due to market forces, greater exposure on satellite and terrestrial TV and the enhanced purchasing power of the clubs. The first 1000-pound transfer took place in 1905 when striker Alf Common moved from Sunderland to Middlesborough. The next major jump in transfers took place after 23 years when gigantic striker Ricardo Zamora moved from Espanol to Real Madrid for 5,000 pounds.

The first 100,000-plus transfer occurred in August 1966 when England's midfield dynamo Alan Ball moved from hometown club Blackpool to Everton. Four years later, the transfer record increased by 100 per cent. Another of England's victorious 1966 squad, Martin Peters shitted from West Ham United to North London-based Tottenham Hotspur.

In February 1979, striker Trevor Francis became the first million-pound transfer when he moved from Birmingham City to Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest. Johan Cruyff's move from Ajax Amsterdam to Barcelona in 1974 was the first 1 million pounds transfer in the world. Five-million pound transfers started only in the Nineties. Roberto Baggio moved from Florentina to Juventus in 1990 for a world record fee of 8 million pounds. In England, the first 5-million pounds transfer took place only in July 1994 when striker Chris Sutton shifted from Norwich City to Blackburn Rovers.

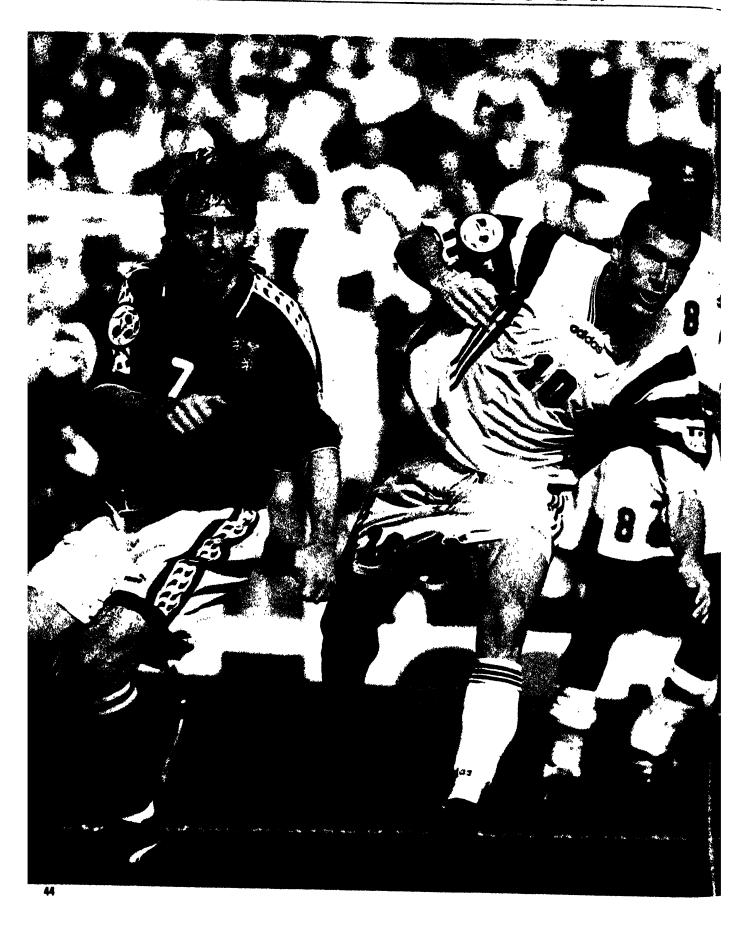
The increasing wealth of English clubs can be gauged that in two years

the transfer fees have leapfrogged from 5 million to 15 million pounds. In July 1995, the transfer record was 8.5 million pounds for striker Stan Collymore from Nottingham Forest to Liverpool. But within a year, not surprisingly, the record fee was nearly doubled.

Court Ruling

E UROPEAN football transfer rules have been altered by the historic European Court of Justice ruling in the case brought by Jean-Marc Bosman earlier this year. A Belgian professional, he was denied a free transfer when his contract expired. Before the Bosman ruling, the greedy clubs rarely granted their players free transfers, even when their contracts duly expired.

The players are now relieved and reaping the benefits of the post-Bosman era. They are now calling the shots, like negotiating their own contracts. For instance, Zinedine Zidane of Bordeaux out of contract with his club, pocketed 2 million pounds for a move to Juventus. This amount will be given to Zidane as salary and bonus. Earlier, Juventus would have shelled out this vast amount to his former club Bordeaux and then negotiated a weekly salary with Zidane. The Bosman verdict states that the transfer fees will no longer exist for European clubs and the players will be permitted freedom of movement. Smaller clubs which enhance their income by the sale of quality players are badly affected by this ruling.





A court ruling in Europe has helped the players immensely. They now call the shots and France's Zinedine Zidane (in action against the Czech Republic in the Euro '96 semis) is one of those who have benefitted from it

However, a lew enterprising clubs have found a loophole in this ruling. If a player is still under contract and is transferred then the club gets compensation for his services. That is why Newcastle United paid 15 million pound to Blackburn Rovers to secure the services of Alan Shearer. The lethal England striker's contract with Blackburn had not expired. In all transfer deals, the player does not pocket all the money. The club losing a star player gets the money as compensation. Thus Blackburn Rovers earned 15 million pounds. Shearer got just 1.5 million pounds as signing fees and a weekly salary of 30,000 pounds.

Boom In Kit Contract

TN the Sixties, former England Askipper Johnny Haynes, an astute schemer with Fulham, became the first English player to earn a meagre 100 pounds a week. Such salaries, in the era of the Beatles caused quite a stir. These days such a salary would be peanuts. Britain's top weekly wage earners are Italian import, Ravanelli who quit Juventus for Middlesborough and earns 42,000 pounds per week and England striker Alan Shearer gets a weekly salary of 30,000 pounds per week. This financial boom is because of the record television contracts and lucrative kit contracts.

At the moment, kit contracts has taken a new dimension. The big money is no longer from shirt advertisements which are worth around 500,000 pounds per year, for the big clubs. It is the replica strips which now bring in the megabucks. English tans love buying replica kits and the team-shirt is often given to kids as birthday presents. World Soccer reported that Chelsea sold out their entire first stock of 12,000 'Vialli' shirts within days of the former Juventus player's arrival at Stamford Bridge.



The legendary Anfield club Liverpool could earn as much as 40 million pounds over the next five years from Reebok. Manchester United's deal with Umbro is also worth 40 million pounds but spread over six seasons.

Another major source of income is the Football League's record deal with

BSkyB, which is owned by the Australian media mogul Rupert Murdoch. The new contract specifies that the sports subsidiary of BSkyB, namely Sky Sports, was granted exclusive rights to show live Premier League matches from August 1997 to May 2001. The deal is worth a stunning 670 million pounds. The

current five-year deal with Sky Sports is worth 45 million pounds a season. The new contract is worth a whopping 168 million pounds.

The Premier League clubs stand to earn about 8 million pounds per annum for the next five years from this contract. Leading clubs like Manchester United, Newcastle United



PHOTOGRAPHS COLORSPORT

Before Gianluca Vialli's arrival at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea sold out the first lot of 'Vialli' shirts and made a profit

and Liverpool which have greater exposure on television could earn as much 12 million pounds per year. Such galloping income for the clubs has led to hefty wage packets for the players. The football boom is in full

swing in Europe.

The Exodus

POR years, star players of Europe drifted to the demanding Italian League because of the financial clout. But now the scene has drastically changed due to the decline of the

purchasing power of the Lira. At present, a reverse exodus is taking place. Italian players are leaving their country and seeking their fortune in England and Germany. Three Italians, Vialli, Ravanelli and Di Matteo have joined clubs in the Premier League in England.

However for the first time in its 33-year history, the Bundesliga (the German League) has an Italian in its ranks. The pioneer is the long-serving striker Ruggiero Rizzitelli who has joined UEFA Cup champions and Germany's glamour club Bayern Munich. In Italy, he previously played for Cesena, Roma and Torino. Rizzitelli left Torino, as his club was relegated to Serie B.

The 28-year-old Rizzitelli did not fancy a long spell to Serie B. Hence he was on the lookout for a top flight club. Though Rizzitelli has played nine times for.Italy, the response from Italian clubs was lukewarm. The offer from Bayern Munich was the most lucrative so he didn't hesitate to accept the offer. Rizitelli is relishing the challenge. The bustling player is not daunted by the language barrier. He is quite happy that Bayarn Munich has an Italian coach, Giovanni Trapattoni and so communication on the field will not cause any pressure.

Rizzitelli, however, faces an uphill task for a first-team slot in Bayern Munich. There are four strikers in the fray for two slots. German skipper Jurgen Klinsmann, the promising Alex Zicklev and another new recruit, the Rapid Vienna striker Carstan Jancker. However, the club has a daunting fixture schedule: the German League, German Cup and the UEFA Cup.

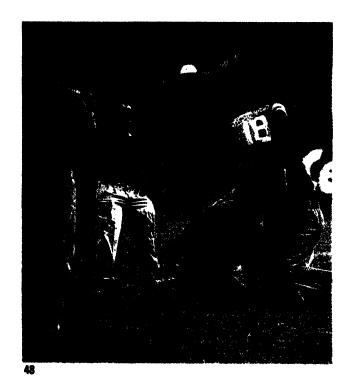
Rizzitelli is thus confident that his turn in the first eleven will come sooner or later. His aim is to develop a rapport with his teammates and the Bayern fans when he gets his chance to play. He is happy at his new club, and hopes that his success in Germany will pave the way for more Italian players to join the Bundesliga in the near future.

Novy Kapadia



THE CHAMPS EAST BENGAL wo their 24th Calcutta League title

League title





Any team that plays continually for three months will certainly appear jaded. Defending Super Division League champions East Bengal, who have played 22 matches at a stretch without full strength (nearly half the club's star players were away at the national preparatory camps for at least 15 days a month), were no exception.

Yet, East Bengal won their culminating league match against Eastern Reilway, when a draw was sufficient enough to enable them to retain the league crown. Thus their 1996 league assignment ended with a victory and sent the fanatics back home a contended lot. For this triumph, the team must thank their Latvian recruit Sergei Kutav for scoring the all-important goal (TOP LEFT). The Latvian striker has gradually acclimatised to the Indian conditions; earlier, he was the proud recipient of the men-of-the-match award against Kerela Police in the recent Scissors Cup in Madras.

East Bengal, the Federation Cup champions, who had pipped gallant Dempo of Goa via a golden goal after a titanic battle, somehow did not live upto their expectations in the Scissors Cup exactly a month later when the same Goan team thrashed them in the semifinal. The supporters couldn't digest the humiliation; maybe, as a mark of protest, the fans reacted, by not turning up in large numbers, on the day of the 'final judgement' of the Super League.

With 42 points, East Bengal won their 24th title. But the victory failed to whip up the emotions among the spectators as the match was rather unimpressive. But a few supporters had brought along with them a brass band to celebrate the victory; the Bengali's favourite hilsa being displayed (RIGHT, TOP). The top-scorer in the Super League, Tauseef Jamal with six goals to his credit, (RIGHT, MIDDLE) is being hotly chased by a Railway player. The jubilant crowd proudly displaying the huge East Bengal flag after the triumph (RIGHT, BELOW).

Before the match started, a fan was smeared with the club colours (NEAR LEFT) and a couple of them doing pronam (FAR LEFT) to Tushar Rakshit after the triumph, as photographers busily click away.



PHOTOGRAPHS ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY







Is Bailey The Fastest?

OULD you please convince me as to how Donovan Bailey is the fastest man on earth—as your cover screams? Now, if we must have to accept the 100m sprint champion as the fastest, there should be no debate, but when, in all probability and practical sense, somebody else had done it, I don't think it's wise to deny the man the honour of being the fastest man.

Michael Johnson's 200m sprint was timed at 19.32 seconds, making him much faster than Bailey. In fact, Johnson's 200m (19.32+2=9.66) seconds and the first 100m of the 400m are way ahead of Bailey's. This has been substantiated by experts out there in the USA as well—by breaking Michael Johnson's 200m and 400m sprints into several parts and then comparing it with Bailey's.

So whenever there is any mention of the term 'fastest' in



Canadian Denovan Bailey waves to the crowd after the Olympic relay at Atlanta

the Olympics, Michael Johnson's feats should also be taken into account. We (or anybody, for that matter) just can't afford to ignore Johnson in any way.

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack

Enigmatic Brigade

Suprakash Ghoshal's article "The Crescent Brigade" in Sportsworld dated 28 Aug-10 Sept. lucidly described the enigmatic Pakistan cricket team. To exemplify their unpredictability, Pakistan, after comprehensively trouncing England in the Test series, surrendered the Texaco Trophy rather meekly.

The Pakistan team has been beset by wrangling, perso ality clashes and frequent changes of

the captain. Ball-tampering and bribery allegations further compounded their problem. Despite all these problems, they are a perennial force in international cricket. One wonders what would have happened had there been a proper infrastructure in their country and a disciplined board to govern the game.

CHINMOY ROY, Calcutta.

Informative i

HE article "Imran-Botham libel suit" in the Sportsworld August 14-27 issue was informative, interesting and different from all other articles on the subject, published in the various dailies/magazines in India. Nobody else touched on the funny side of the case as good-humouredly as the author did.

PANKAJ KRISHNA CHALLA, Bhimalapuram, (AP)

RALLYING ON!

Even though the '96 Calcutta—Jamshedpur Monsoon Rally had its

share of problems, it nevertheless provided an interesting finale

Contracting to the Contract of Contract of

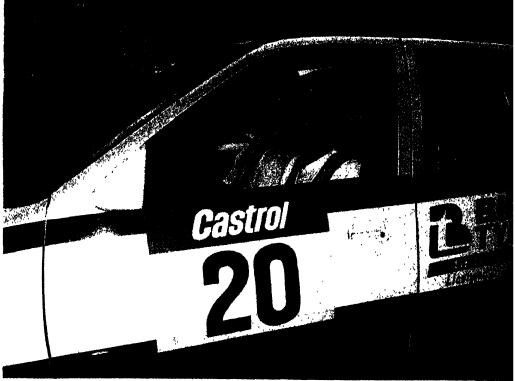


eastern India do the whole year? Answer: They tune their souped up cars and bikes, practise their fancy driving skills and wait for the monsoon to get over. The reason: The most prestigious rally held in this part

1996 was no different and once again everyone waited for the Caicutta-Jamshedpur Castroi Monsoon Raily to take place. It did take place, in the face of a couple of obstacles and one unfucky driver, Bobby Das even lost his life. Inspite of this, the rally was by all means a success, even though some drivers were a little peeved about the safety conditions and what they claimed was the questionable decisions of the field marshalls manning the route. Even though the rally eventually had to be truncated, it nevertheless had its own share of thrills and spills.

The 20th edition of the race was won by Atikur Rehman and Sanjiv Shah who were sponsored by Birla Tyres and drove a Maruti Esteem. Interestingly, the driver Atikur Rehman hails from Assam while the navigator Sanjiv Shah comes from Bangalore. Picture shows the drivers with the Birla Tyres officials after their victory (top) and Shah and Rehman before the start of the race, after the completion of which they went home richer by Rs. 50,000.

The cars are now back in the garages, and the dust has settled on the highway, but come '97 and once again all will be waiting for the action to begin



BY SUBHASH SARCAR

F the All India Football
Federation bosses continue to
remain impotent to the whims
and fancies of the chief coach
Rustam Arkamov then the soccer
scenario in the country is heading for
disaster. As it is, Indian football has,
for the last couple of decades, taken a
beating at the hands of their more
formidable Asian rivals. However, the
recent draw against underdogs Sri
Lanka in the Pre-World Cup Group 10
at Doha in Qatar has become a
national embarrassment.

For this shameful debacle, whom do we point our fingers at: the AIFF or Rustam Arkamov? Of course, the federation will pass the buck to the foreign coach. Ever since Arkamov

Does RUSTAM
AKRAMOV have
Indian football's
best interests in
mind? If so, why
does he chop and
te-instate players
in the team
faster than he
changes his dothes?

when Uzbekhstan won the '94 Hiroshima Asian Games football gold, is basically a fickle-minded and temperamental person. Today, if he regards X as the best player, the next morning he discards him as bad rubbish. There are umpteen instances in this regard.

When I. M. Vijayan was considered the best striker in the country in 1995, he was considered an automatic choice for the Nehru Cup international tournament; but stunningly, the Uzbek coach didn't think so. He selected Punjab's Kuljit Singh as Vijayan's replacement. Ironically, Singh had, earlier, taken a dig at Akramov by saying, "He has nothing to impart to the more seasoned players".

Akramov continued to sideline I.M. Vijayan by not selecting him for the SAARC Gold Cup at Colombo, His explanation: "Vijayan was not fit to be in the Indian team". In Colombo, the crowd was surprised at Vijavan's omission because they had seen him play in matches seen on video. He was, after all, India's most well known striker. After Sri Lanka won the tournament, Akramov changed his opinion; he went on record by saying that, "Vijayan is the best player in the country". Meanwhile, his first choice Kuljit Singh was put in cold storage permanently.

Today, surprisingly, Vijayan is in



RUSTY I

took over, most of the players who came under his coaching and those who were whimsically discarded, have never been comfortable with him, it is alleged.

Rustam Arkamov, whose only noteworthy success as a coach was

the coach's good books. When most players are warned that they must be punctual for the national camps and are immediately removed if they are late, Vijayan was the only exception. Incidentally, the JCT striker attended the Pre-World Cup camp just two days

before the team left for Doha; he was also made the Indian captain. Why should there be two set of rules for the campers?

Apart from the flip-flop on Vijayan, Akramov behaved funnily with Sathyen also. In Madras, during the



'95 Santosh Trophy, the chief coach said that there was no one better than Sathyen in defence; he was chosen to lead India in the Nehru Gold Cup and the SAARC Gold Cup. But after these two tournaments, Akramov suddenly said that Sathyen was 'useless'. Now the latter's international career is more or less over.

Akramov also has the habit of branding players 'dishonest'. He seems to use this word for those whom he dislikes. Bengal players seem to be on high on the list of players he dislikes.

He has called Debashis Pal Choudhury, goalkeeper Hemanta Dora, Akil Ansari, Satyajit Chatterjee, Aloke Das, Sumit Mukherjee and a host of others as 'dishonest'. This is ridiculous as well as inconsistent behaviour. Earlier, Akramov had praised Satyajit Chatterjee and Aloke Das saying that they were the best players of the SAF Games; Hemanta Dora was called the best goalkeeper. Akramov chatting with Tauseef Jamal during the 1995 Nehru Cup in Calcutte . He has a tendency to miss major tournaments

But no sooner had he praised them that they were dropped for the subsequent camp. This type of behaviour doesn't make sense. It smacks of a whimsical character who likes to toy with the players.

So far, in his tenure as chief coach, he has not been able to produce a set team because of his habit of choosing and chopping at random. In fact, the



players felt frustrated; they didn't know where they stood. As a result, their confidence has taken a beating. They performed poorly whenever they played for their clubs. As a result, the club coaches criticised the Uzbek coach for his inability to infuse a sense of confidence among the players.

The only plus point of Akramov's tenure was when India won the '95 SAF Games gold at Madras. After that victory, surprisingly, he did not maintain the same winning combination, which was what any other top level coach would have done. Even his 'best' SAF player Aloke Das, whom he had recommended for an award for his performance, did not find a place in the next national camp.

This was inefficiency at its height. Here's another example: nearly two years have lapsed but Rustam Akramov has not yet been able to find the right person for the right back position. As if that was not bad enough, he played JCT's Charlton Chapman as right back instead of playing him in his favourite right flank position. Chapman, who should have joined in the attack in the SAF Games, was fielded as a right back. He played in the same position at Doha also.

In fact, Akramov loves to play around with the originl position of the players: Midfielder Bruno Coutinho now plays as a libero; the dashing midfielder Jo Paul Ancheri is a libero; Roberto Fernandez has been moved from stopper to midfield; winger Shabir Pasha has been shifted to midfield while stopper Anit Ghosh is now a sideback....

Take goalkeeping: when India has top quality goalkeepers waiting in the queue, why did Akramov go all the way to Kerala to pick a certain Feroze from a lesser known club? Feroze's selection did not make any sense. Supposedly, the lanky Feroze was said to be good at grasping the ball in the air. But Feroze was exposed at Doha when a grounder by Anthony D'Souza of Sri Lanka was let in. It deprived India the chance to win and move up the points ladder. (Against



Qatar India lost 6-0 and her campaign anded on a sour note)

If the experienced and talented Hemanta Dora was put under the bar the story might have been different By the way, this was the fourth time India met Sri Lanka The tally one win one loss and two draws. This is a shameful record against not-so-good Sri Lanka

Another sin of Akramov is that he does not witness important national tournaments For example, when Calcutta hosted the important

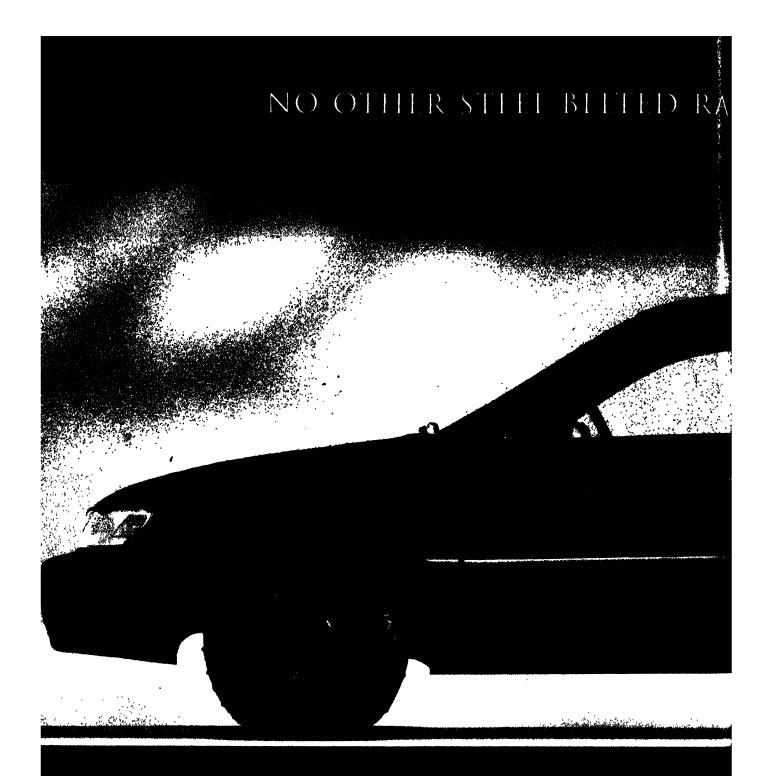
The jubilant Indian team with coach Akramov (in red) after winning the '95 SAF Games in Madras This was his only major win

Federation Cup he was conspicuous by his absence He also missed the Scissors Cup in Madras This was intolerable Because, it was at these tournaments that the cream of Indian football can be seen The players he finally selects seem to have little or no international experience

After the Doha fiasco, the football fraternity has been shocked Derryck D'Souza the former deputy to Jiri

Pesak told the press that Rustam Akramov should be removed immediately There was no midfield play D Souza said The team was a ship without a rudder

Many former internationals are demanding the removal of the foreign coach firstly because he has been harmful for Indian football and secondly it will save the country of much-needed foreign exchange They strongly feel that an Indian coach should be at the helm of affairs as soon as possible



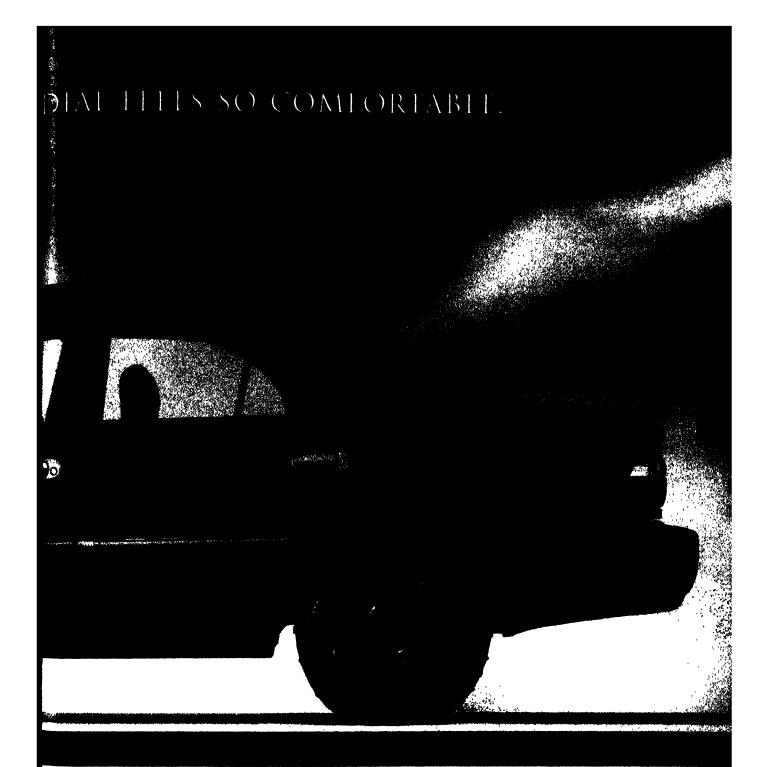
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BYRICARO

RAHUL DRAVID
is Indian cricket's
newest star. He prefers
not to believe it. But
even he can't
argue against records

reassuring about Rahul
Dravid, something instantly
comforting about his
presence. The cut of his jaw signifies
that he is sturdy and dependable.
When he walks to the wicket with
that confident swagger of his;
shoulders spread out; head held high,
the opposition might have a feeling
that he has to be shelled for three days
before any attempts are made to bowl
him out.

Dravid looks like a batsman who comes from the South (Dravidian?), because of the irresistible Southern sentiments that are reflected in his batting flair.' A boy in an Azharuddin mould' as he has been labelled. You can see it in his batting —that measured approach with no sign of undue impetuosity and yet everything is done in a thoughtful manner. Dravid enjoys playing his shots, relying more on timing than on brute force. The philosophy of his batting is sweet, "to stay at the wicket as long as possible. In addition, if you're a stroke-maker you can keep the score-board ticking at the regularity of a metronome.'

Logical.



AMANFOR ALL REASONS

He might be the best big boy in Indian cricket, but Rakul Dravid prefers to keep a low profile

A rare picture of barn-door determination and aggression, Dravid is a natural stroke maker. His perfect timing and nimble footwork are the basis of the neatly played strokes that come from the blade of his bat. He is also strong off his backfoot with a flurry of strokes on both sides of the wicket. Ideally grafted for No.3 in the Indian batting order, Dravid has all the traits of an innings builder, restricting the flamboyance that he is sometimes capable of exhibiting, there are times when he prefers to treat every ball on its merit. Those times, when caution has to be the watchword, have come quite often when Dravid has batted for India. Quite predictably, he has not failed.

The 48 runs that he scored against Pakistan at Toronto may not have been the ideal one-day knock in hindsight but Dravid stood amongst the ruins when the ball was turning squarely. Moreover, his conscientious approach brought him the 'Man of the match'award. An award that was adjudicated by none other than the legendary Sir Garfield Sobers.

Dravid's high degree of self-restraint has helped the Karnataka player in no uncertain terms. Moreover, his talent has served evidence of the copious potential that is present amongst the Karnataka cricketers. In fact, Karnataka, which is being served by hardworking cricketers like Dravid, Kumble, Srinath, Prasad, Joshi and Johnson has become the nursery of Indian cricket.

Rahul Dravid, along with a few others, has served a long apprenticeship ever since the concept of 'A' tours were introduced a couple of years back for grooming potential Test material in Indian cricket. He went through a mill of three successive 'A' trips but his successes were overlooked by the 'wise men' that govern the Indian cricket administration. Luck came in the form of centuries in the Ranji Trophy semifinal and final last year, and this

confirmed his inclusion into the Indian team for the Singer Cup in Singapore followed by Sharjah.

Dravid's one-day debut series was self confessedly 'somewhat nightmarish', and he suffered the harsh treatment in the demanding world of professional sports that is reserved for also rans. A string of four failures had driven him into an age old controversy where even Sanjay reply to his detractors. This was again followed up with a confident 84 at Trent Bridge underlining his class as a Test cricketer.

But Dravid was no slouch in the one-day stakes either. He has been quick enough to fit himself to the world of instant cricket, showing

His consistent performances has won Dravid a lot of fans and some even look up to him as a role model



Manjrekar found himself trapped—an orthodox who's more at home in the traditional game.

But the real Rahul Dravid had not yet made an appearance. It came, almost fittingly, in the Test series against England. If Sourav Ganguly was the hero at Lords, Dravid wasn't far behind. The carefully compiled 95, in the face of overwhelming pressure, at the Mecca of cricket came as a fitting tremendous maturity, guts and courage in the face of formidable odds. One can easily make a character assessment of Dravid by watching him bat. His strokes reveal his persona: a crisis man whose sense of defiance is rarely visible in his pleasing personality.

It seems he was always content to be in the background, preferring

anonymity to glamour. But that does not mean that Dravid is an unsocial creature. However, the quiet but soothing world that is so prevalent in the backstage is what Dravid prefers: in the background, out of the flashlights.

If India's latest cricketing sensation turns down requests for interviews, it is not out of a sense of arrogance that comes with fame, Rather it is out of a sense of commitment. A commitment that most cricketers make to the Board before they embark on a tour. Moreover, Dravid knows that in terms of his stature in the Indian team, he is still a novice. And like novices, the Board's diktat is like the eleventh commandment. It is a ruling that most players have to respect; with the possible exception of a chosen few. Nevertheless, Dravid will politely decline interviews whilst pleading his case. "Please don't quote me, we are not supposed to speak to the Press on matters regarding the ongoing series." One gets the impression he has made sufficiently lengthy statements already: with his bat.

These days most of our 'internationals' revel in the

razzmatazz and glitz that glamour affords. But off the field, Dravid doesn't want to compromise on his privacy; he can do without the hassles of fame and publicity in an era where sportsmen are such alluring fodder for sportswriters. Celebrity and 'hail fellow, well met' friendships do not interest him. As one of his team-mates pointed out, "Rahul decides whether he'll get to know you."

Rahul Dravid himself does not believe in taking time off to polish his trumpet. In this age of professionalism and aggression in sports, it becomes rather easy to undervalue a man who does not possess a blatant attitude. On the contrary, one has to play cricket with Rahul Dravid in order to appreciate and respect his ability. That is also the way he would like it.

The tour of England, a trip that was undertaken in "three and a half months of erratic conditions" enhanced Dravid's reputation as well as his technique. At the same time, it projected the humble image of the Karnataka cricketer. Dravid himself

Technically a correct batsman Dravid draws a lot of inspiration from the master of technique, Sachin Tendulker





Cooling off! But, that's what bowlers usually do after Dravid is finished with them

lived up to that image whilst performing under great odds. There is a certain modesty that surrounds the Test cricketer from Karnataka and this sets him apart. They do not come up with huge complexes nor do they really pick up one despite all the trials and tribulations of Indian cricket. In England, Dravid managed to shape his



career to the point where he is being looked on as a genuine finished article, a batsman with the talent and nerve to make runs at the highest level.

Unlike most professional athletes, Råhul had no burning ambition to play sport for living. In fact, he didn't know what he wanted to be, except for the fact that he felt he might "make something happen" one day.

Dravid gave early indications of that happening feeling: vital signs that he was an all-round talent. As a

10-year-old he was playing both hockey and cricket for his school, till he cracked that first century for St.Anthony's in a school match thus. becoming an overnight hero. "It so happened that I always had a special affinity for this game. I feel I've made the right choice," Dravid emphasised. Dravid, like his character, is more comfortable with the stability and character that cricket as a sport illustrates. He isn't here just to earn his living, "If people think money is the

only thing worth while about playing cricket then I think they have their priorities wrong."

Small and simple ingredients form the core of his personality. And yet, there's something reassuring about Rahul Dravid. Something that makes you feel confident about his abilities. It also gives you hope that things are in order: almost like winter followed by spring. It is this sense of order that makes one feel optimistic about Indian cricket.



DRAMA AT THE GUINDY LINKS

In a scintillating battle for top honours, Kanpur's Shiv Prakash kept his composure till the final hole and won the day

start to this year s domestic golf circuit with the ITC sponsored Classic event in Madras golf fans were treated to some vintage performances

recently

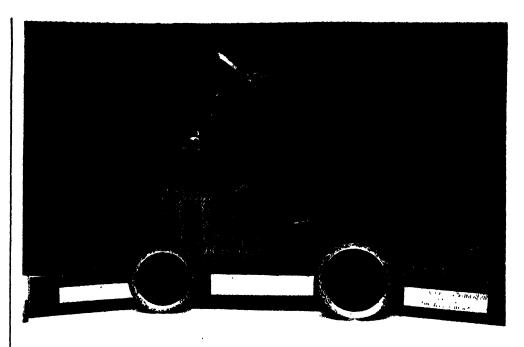
The occasion was the
Classic Southern India
Open with an purse of Rs 5
lakhs attracting keen
competition in the
picturesque environs of the
Madras Gymkhana Guindy

golf course While few remember that this event has been in existence since 1964, the players certainly did it justice with almost all the big names in the fray Vijay Kumar, last year's top money winner (Rs 8,49,328) alongwith Rohtas Singh, Ali Sher, Jyoti Randhawa, Vivek Bhandari, Shiv Prakash and Feroz Ali made the starting line-up and fireworks were certainly on the cards The initial salvos were fired by lesser known players like Asgar Ali, and Yusuf Ali but after the halfway stage the men were separated from the boys and Vijay Kumar was tied for the lead with twice winner of the Indian Open Ali Sher who shot a dramatic 65. Two strokes adrift were Shiv Prakash of Kanpur and the old war horse Calcutta's Basad Ali.

No writer could have visualised the drama that unfolded on Day Three, especially as it was as early as the 3rd hole where Vijav Kumar blew himself out of the contention with a paltry 12 after sailing 3 balls out of bounds to finally limp home on 80. Asgar Ali, who had done most of the front running also fell by the wayside when he recorded a 4 over par 74 and so it was left to the few under par scorers Shiv Prakash 204, Basad Ali 204 and Ali Sher 206 to set the stage for the final day.

The Guindy golf course has been likened to a links golf course as it is totally windswept, devoid of trees and for the wayward drive. the worst obstacle is the man high rough. While trees are not allowed to grow as these would interfere with the vision of the avid race goers, this golf course has its own charm and it has often spelt disaster for the unsuspecting bad shooter. During the four days of excitement, the club acquired a striking new look, as it wore the Classic colours of gold and maroon.

Vijay Kumar, last year's top money winner, was inconsistent



What was clear was that from the first hole none of the final group was prepared to give up any ground and only some disastrous short putts, missed first by Ali Sher on the 6th and 10th and then

by Basad Ali on the 13th, made a difference to the eventual standings.

The 15th and 17th holes, which are easily the hardest on this course, took their toll of all three players and Shiv Prakash,



who kept his composure and made the least number of errors, finally annexed the title with a score of 3 under 271. Apart from winning the handsome trophy, Shiv Prakash became richer by Rs.83,300. Basad Ali who has been struggling over the last couple of seasons showed a welcome return to form to finish two behind at 270 and a further stroke adrift was Ali Sher. Rohtas finished a distant fourth at 283 (thrice over).

The two outstation amateurs Shiraz Kalra and Aman Bahl fought for top honours in this section with the eventual victor being Shiraz for his fine 36 hole scores of 70 and 69. Aman battled vainly on the fourth day to protect a 5 stroke cushion but superior play by Shiraz edged him out from his first title in the senior ranks. D. Pankumar from the Madras Gymkhana Club finished third behind these first two amateurs.

By A Correspondent

ACK DIAMOND



HUGWANE, winner of last year's Honolulu marathon and this year's Cape Town event, clocked two hours 12 minutes 36 seconds, just ahead of South Korean Lee Bong-Ju. Eric Wainana of Kenya took bronze and Martin Fiz, World and European champion and favourite for the Olympic title, placed fourth. Thugwane, the first African to win the Olympic marathon since Mamo Wolde of Ethiopia in 1968, broke away after 30km of the race through the suburbs of Atlanta on a mild morning in which the 123 runners were not unduly bothered by the summer heat. Lee joined him two km later and Wainana came up on them at the 34 km mark. The three quickly pulled away from the pack, opening up a gap of around half a minute. Just before entering the Olympic stadium, Thugwane surged away from his two rivals to win by a gap of three seconds.

He did it for his country and team-mates, to repay those who prepared him for this moment of Olympic glory. But most of all, Josia Thugwane won the Olympic marathon for his hero, Nelson Mandela

"I am dedicating this medal to him because he made it possible, he made us free," the tiny runner said after winning the closest Olympic marathon in history. He became the first black South African to win a gold medal.

That Thugwane, 25, even ran in the race seems a miracle. He grew up poor and disadvantaged, like most blacks in the apartheid era. Sports meant soccer or running, requiring nothing more than the open spaces and dirt roads of his settlement, as only whites could use the fancy tracks and stadium in town

Thugwane played a lot of soccer as a youngster, dreaming of some day getting paid more money than possible from the menial labour available to blacks. Then in 1988, at age 17, he decided to enter a local half-marathon. "I ran in that race and I won 50 rand (\$11.50)," he said through an interpreter, to yet another

interviewer a few hours after his Olympic victory. "That was it. I was a runner. Here was a way to make money."

At about the same time change was coming to South Africa then. Mandela was still serving his 27 years in prison but talking secretly with white leaders. Foreign pressure to end apartheid had increased. Mandela's release and formal talks with the white-led government in 1990 brought the first real hope that blacks would finally be able to vote, live where they wanted and go to the good schools in their own country.

Two years later, South Africa was invited back to the Olympics for the first time since 1960 in a tribute to its progress toward ending apartheid. The mostly white squad won two

"What the medal means to me is that our problems are over. We are free to run and be part of the international community. We are back in the fold."—Josia Thugwane

silver medals, both by whites. Now the change is final. Mandela is President after blacks voted for the first time in 1994. Government money previously reserved for the white minority spawns development programmes for blacks. And for the first time, black athletes have won Olympic medals.

Thugwane's victory, in one of the most prestigious Olympic events, sparked national celebrations. "He is our Golden Boy and he has reinforced our pride and confidence as a nation," Mandela said. "He will be a worthy role-model to our youngsters to reach for the stars." Even the white-led National Party, which imposed apartheid and then dismantled it, called Thugwane's medal a triumph "for our new nation".

Officials had a parade through downtown Johannesburg to honour

Thugwane, Sepeng and Penny Heyns, the white swimmer who won two gold medals.

Thugwane almost missed his opportunity to be at Atlanta. He escaped an attempted car robbery five months ago, jumping from a moving car with his chin sliced open by an errant bullet. "I have had some problems since then......I thought it may not be possible for me to run again," he said. "But my employers gave me the best support possible. They paid for all my treatment."

He works at the Koornfontein coal mine, about 30 miles from his family's home. Thugwane said he does some security work and answers telephones. His agent said Thugwane is a janitor earning about \$500 a month.

"I never thought I could win an Olympic marathon," Thugwane admitted. "I thought I really had to do well. Everyone had done so much, paid money for us to train and be here. What the medal means to me is that our problems are over. We are free to run and be part of the international community. We are back in the fold."

It may be of interest to note South Africa's four Olympic medallists dedicated their awards to the 78-year-old President, Nelson Mandela, who, they said, had provided the inspiration for their success. Medallists Penny Heyns, Josiah Thugwane, Hezekiel Sepeng and Marianne Kriel made the dedication to Mandela outside his official residence after having tea with him.

Mandela, who gave the four medallists a guided tour of the spacious grounds surrounding his residence, complimented them on their success, achieved despite South Africa's years of isolation and deprivation.

"South Africa is a gold exporter," he said. "But now, these young people brought gold back to us." He further predicted the country would increase its medal haul in the 2000 Sydney Games.

T S. Venkataraman

ESPITE losing the Sahara
Cup, there was something extraordinary about the way the Indian team transformed itself in Canada. Their fielding was out of this world; their batting, though not consistent, did not panic when Tendulkar got out early; most importantly, they looked determined to give as good a fight as

One was amazed at this complete turnaround. Why, just a few weeks ago, they looked so woefully dispirited on the field. They have never fielded with such intensity and accuracy for such a long time. What has been the cause of this transformation?

they could get.

Well, it obviously has to be the appointment of Sachin Tendulkar as captain. But can an appointment of a new captain lead to such a change in the side? The answer seems to be yes.

It made me ponder about leadership. How important is it for a team? Can a team of players motivate themselves, without the necessity of a leader telling them what to do? This was what Azhar kept saying. Or is it that you need a leader to create a team spirit, an environment, an element of motivation, for the team to perform at the top of their abilities.

This change in the Indian team clearly shows that Azhar's line of thinking was wrong. I mean, without

Sachin Tendulkar: only time will tell whether he is a gifted leader or not

a good and inspiring leader, it seems impossible for a team to do well. A leader can urge players to play well, instil confidence, re-affirm that people will be selected only on the basis of performance. It can make a difference to one's game. Players also tend to look up at the captain; his influence on the team is enormous.

What is leadership? What are the qualities that make a good leader? Sadly, in-our country, we have very few examples of great leaders. Surely, we cannot call Narasimha Rao a great leader? In sports, was I.S. Bindra of the BCCI a great leader? Or B.S. Adityan of the IOA? Or R.K. Khanna of the AITA? Or P.R. Das Munshi of the AIFF?

In India, the usual experience of leadership is not very enjoyable. One of the first acts of a new leader is to give 'boss vibes'. He wants to make sure to all and sundry that he is the boss. "The leader," says Robert Jackall in his book, 'Moral Mazes', "has a propensity for lording it over his subordinates, a behaviourial pattern that often emerges after years of continual suppression of impulses."

'Ego trip' bosses mostly look down upon their subordinates. They don't treat them with respect. As a result, most of the time, staff morale is low. The hierarchy, which the British created, in order that they can rule us well, is still strongly in existence. But, in a rather stifling manner. Nowadays, in organisations, people do not give

more than 30% of their capabilities.

Leaders don't seem to understand that the success of a team depends on how motivated the members are. Motivation of members takes place when you treat them with respect, when you assure them that performance is the only criteria for selection and promotion. That is when the team begins to perform at full throttle.

Sachin Tendulkar has started on the right track. He has energised his team members. He has been able to convince them that he is behind them 100%. But soon, there will be people who will be telling him that since he is the CAPTAIN, he should distance himself from the team. If he listens to this type of nonsensical advice, the Indian team will slip and fall. Because, in these modern egalitarian times, accessibility is the most important criteria of leadership.

Tendulkar should not succumb to this out-moded form of functioning. He should be approachable. He should treat people equally; he should discontinue using what captains of the past always did: a constant refrain of 'seniors' and 'juniors' when describing team members.

Because it has a depressing effect on juniors. To call somebody a junior is a subtle way of putting him in his place. But the end result of this categorisation: a poor performance on the field. Juniors do not feel inspired enough to play out of their skins.

Canny leadership is that which forces team members to give 80-90% of their capabilities. Stupid leadership is when a boss conveys to his team by thought, word or action that they are all good for nothing.

Sachin Tendulkar is just settling in as the captain of the Indian team. Only time will tell whether he is a gifted leader or not. His career as a captain has started with two failures: the Singer and Friendship Cups. But then, failure has always been the stepping stone to success.

Or, as Henry Ford put it: "Failure is only the opportunity to more intelligently begin again."

Shevlin Sebastian



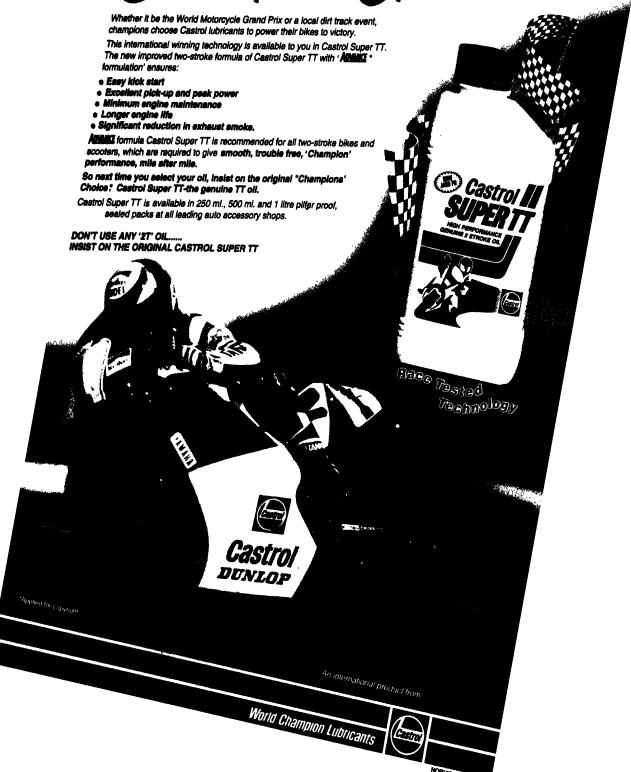
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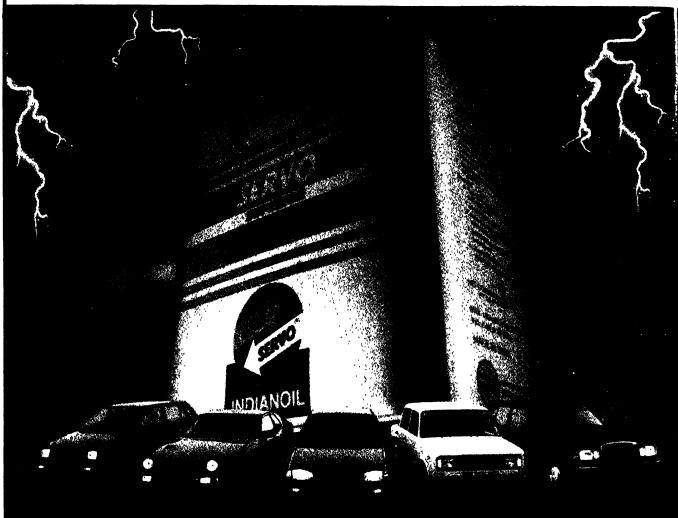
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(SELF) DEMOLITION MAN!

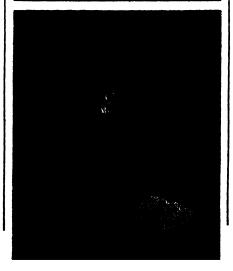
Diego Maradona, soccer's genius, has had a series of scandals against his name. He also has a drug addiction that he can't shake off

SPECIAL LIFESTYLE SECTION

In today's world, lifestyle and sport are synonymous







10

MADAN LAL: BOSS VIBES

15

RICKY WANTS TO PONTIFICATE

20

SANDEEP PATIL: EASY COME, EASY GO

74

'WARNE' OUT?

20

SPORTING AGENTS AND THEIR INFLUENCE

40

THE KRISHNAN TENNIS CENTRE

44

FEATURE: BORIS BECKER

Editor: Mansur Alı Khan Pataudı

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF SACHIN TENDULKAR BY ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

THE BOSS!

His commitment is total. His work ethic is simple: always be the aggressor. Right down to the last ball

BY SABYASACHI SARKAR

ASIM AKRAM paused for a moment and then nodded approvingly: "Yeah, he has the makings of a very aggressive captain, no doubt about it. Give him at least six more months before you start judging him. He is attacking and energetic but the Test matches in the season ahead will be his greatest challenge." The Pakistani skipper always had a word of praise during the Sahara Cup in Toronto for his Indian counterpart, a certain 23-year-old Mr. Tendulkar.

Akram may prefer to reserve his final verdict on Tendulkar as a captain but an overwhelming majority of cricket pundits has already begun branding Sachin Tendulkar as the most aggressive captain India has ever seen. From the ever-so-cynical Geoffrey Boycott to the usually unsparing Ian Chappell, from Arjuna Ranatunga to the newly appointed Pakistan manager Mushtaq Ahmed, all these shrewd cricketing minds are unanimous in their judgement: Sachin Tendulkar as the captain is just what the doctor ordered to revive the sagging fortunes of Indian cricket.

Two one day series have gone after Tendulkar occupied the hot seat.
The losses in both of them notwithstanding, there is an unmistakable aura of hope all around.

Gone, it seems, are the days of despair when the Indian squad resembled a radarless ship.

One just has to study the young Tendulkar from close quarters; even the most cynical of the doubting Thomases would be forced to admit that here is someone on whose broad shoulders the future of Indian cricket appears to be quite safe. The way he conducted himself on and off the field in Colombo and Toronto is proof enough that here is someone who assigns more weightage to performance on the field than mindless sycophancy and who will never let the well-being of the team be overshadowed by any extra-curricular activities.

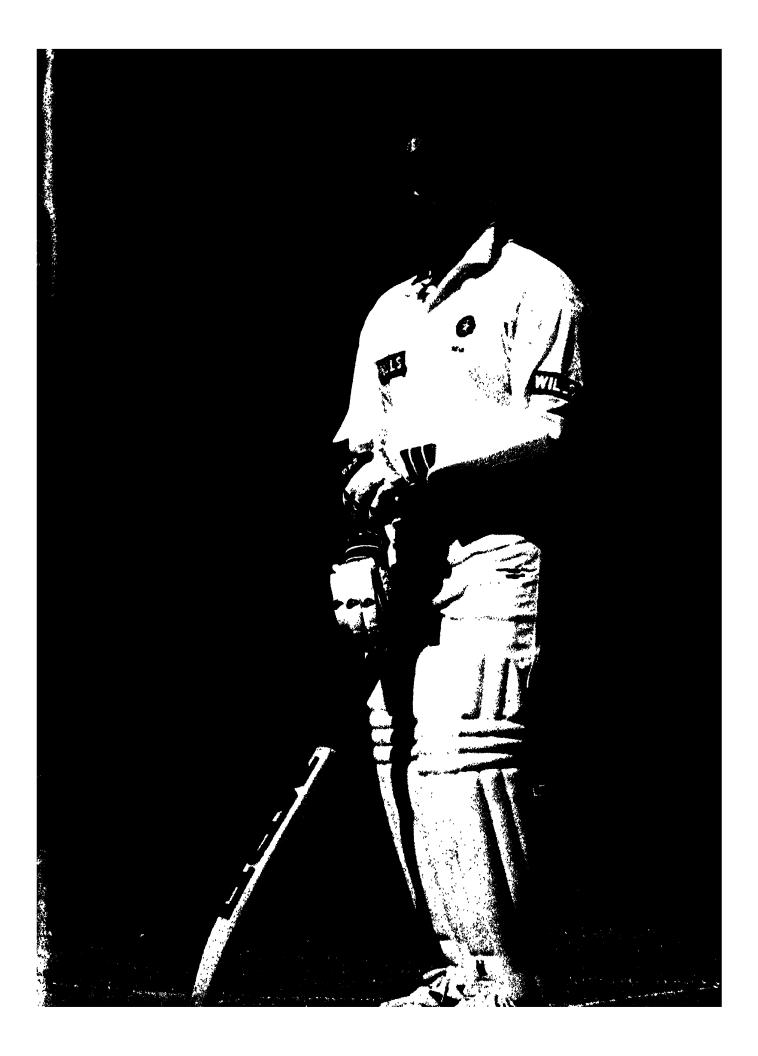
"Captaincy hasn't come a day sooner to Tendulkar," says Ian Chappell himself, a great captain in his days. "The Singer Cup and the Sahara Cup bear eloquent testimony to the fact that Sachin has just about everything that it takes to be a leader. And more importantly, captaincy doesn't seem to have affected his batting at all. He seems to be enjoying every bit of his job. Give him a year or so and he will develop into a great captain. If there are any doubts, they will soon be put to rest."

Doubts, indeed, there were many.

Are the added responsibilities going to take a toll on his batting? What will happen to Sachin Tendulkar, the

Sachin Tendulker: aggression is the key to his





batsman? "If all batsmen are affected by the captaincy, then no one will want to become captain. Then we won't have a captain at all," says Sachin himself. Who can deny that captaincy has always remained a challenge the best batsmen have had to take up. For quite some time now, he has been carrying the burden of Indian batting which has revolved around him. To be captain and at the same time bear the burden of being the prime run-getter can be trying. But for Sachin, it came as easily as his



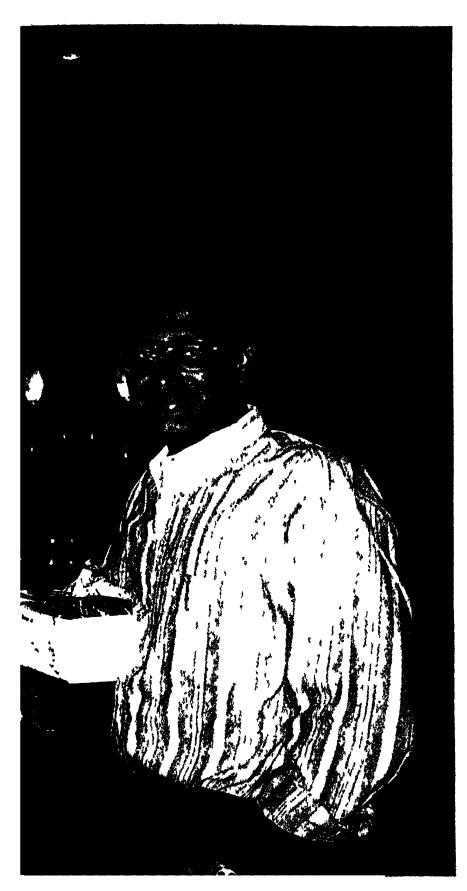
Tendulker probably possesses the finest cricketing brain in the world today

fluent straight drives.

As Saeed Anwar says, "Look at his eyes sher jaise dikhta hai. He is a guy who will never give you an inch. And he'll never give in without a decent fight. When he bats, it's still got the same old grace and fluency. There's doesn't seem to be any added pressure on him due to the captaincy. Bahut accha captain banega."

In Colombo and Toronto, it was clear as daylight that the burden of captaincy is sitting light and pretty on the Indian captain. By the end of the third Sahara Cup match when India forged into a 2-1 lead, the entire cricketing world knew that leadership





Tendulker and Anii Kumble at the Lanks Oberei in Gelombo. Can the Indian team be Impired by Tendulkar?

came naturally to Sachin Tendulkar.

And why not? Every single decision he took, every single initiative he embarked on had the stamp of a shrewd and aggressive cricketing brain. Be it the field placings that kept on changing repeatedly in accordance with the needs of the hour, be it the frequent pep-talks that he constantly offered to the likes of Venkatesh Prasad and debutant Sunil Joshi, or be it the body language which always revealed an intense desire to take the opposition by its horns—the Indian skipper impressed one and all.

Says Mustaq Mohammad, "Under Sachin, India appears to have overcome the mental block that they seem to suffer from while playing against the Pakistanis. Clearly, this is a rejuvenated Indian side. How successful a captain Sachin will be, only time can tell. But there is no doubt that he is a captain who can inspire his teammates into giving their best on the field.

In so far, as tactical brilliance is concerned, Sachin's tendency to bowl a wayward length in the crucial slog overs, he invariably exhausted his quota within the first forty-five overs and let Prasad, who is far more effective with the old ball, bowl the final overs. The debutant Sunil Joshi impressed him so much, he didn't think twice before entrusting him with the responsibility to bowl the crucial 50th over in the second Sahara Cup match.

Malik won the tie for Pakistan but Sachin confidently defended his decision in the post-match press meet."There's no question of regretting the decision. You win some, you lose some. Sunil was bowling such a fine length that I thought he was the best bet". These are the words from a supremely confident captain who never shifts the blame on to the other players and is ever willing to defend his colleagues.

It is this willingness to stand firmly by his teammates that has endeared Sachin to the team, that has brought a sense of purpose, direction and SCORP NEWS



Sachin Tendulker with Mohd. Azharuddin: Despite the former's elevation as captain, it's been an amicable relationship, so far, between the two



determination which was conspicuously absent during the tenure of Mohammad Azharuddin.

Take the all-important Australia match in Colombo, where Anil Kumble, in an uncharacteristic display of irresponsible batting, got out to a rash stroke in the 42nd over when all India needed was to just bat out that over to cut down Australia's batting quota to 42 overs instead of the stipulated 45.

Kumble was subjected to severe criticism by the media and the former players alike, when India lost the match, letting Australia scrape through to the finals. But here again, the captain promptly came to the rescue of his deputy, "It all happens in a match. It is unfair to single him out. I don't blame Anil for that. It was just a momentary lapse which proved to be costly."

If there has been any tinge of criticism about Sachin's tenure, it centred around Saurav Ganguly being dropped in the third and fourth match in Toronto despite a more or less consistent performance while Vinod Kambli retained his place despite indifferent form. An impression gained ground in the media that the Sachin-Patil duo had the interests of the Mumbai lobby in mind rather than pure cricketing merit. The allegation is partly true.

Sandeep Patil was the real villain of the piece. Sachin, in fact, was inclined to give Saurav a continuous run. But it was Patil who pursuaded Sachin into dropping Ganguly.

"Sachin has been a friend, philosopher and guide to all of us," says Ganguly, "I feel greatly privileged to play under him. He is always ready to help, whenever you have any problem, on or off the field."

With Tendulkar at the helm, Indian cricket is currently at the crossroads. To bring back the cricketing glory of the mid-eighties, India must resolve toperform and perform with resolve. Thankfully, Indian cricket now has the right man for the right job.

After all, The Boss's commitment is total. His work ethic is simple: always be the aggressor. Right down to the last ball.

BOSS VIBES

He's got guts. He's an achiever. He's hard working and sincere. MADAN LAL has justifiably occupied Indian cricket's hot seat

BY NOVY KAPADIA

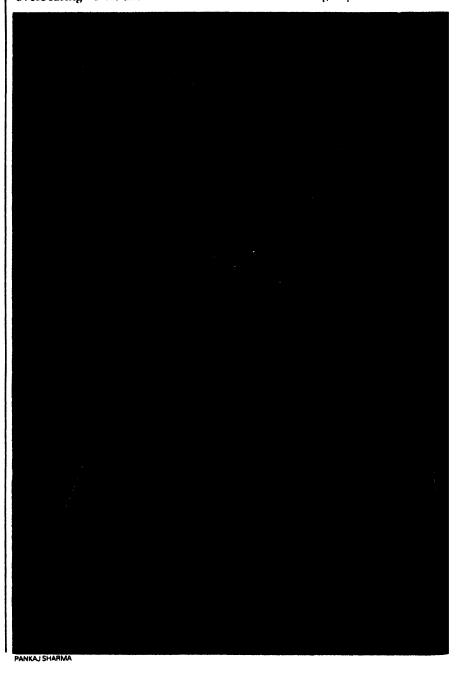
N THE 1987 Ranji Trophy final at Delhi the hosts were involved in a grim battle for a first innings _'ead with Hyderabad Atul Wasson playing his first season for Delhi narrowly missed a run out When the Delhi team and Wasson returned to the cool confines of the dressing room after a hot day on the field they received a bawling from Madan Lal The gutsy all rounder the epitome of grit-commitment and never-say-die attitude missed the match as he was in India's squad for a one dayer vs Pakistan being held at the same time

Such is Madan's commitment to his team (in this case. Delhi) that he returned from his international engagement in the morning and by the afternoon he was at the Kotla stadium urging his Ranji Trophy team-mates to greater glory. Madan the competitor was appalled at Delhi's sloppy fielding and the lackadaisical attitude by the youngsters in the team. Never a man to mince words. Madan lashed out at the Delhi players for their sloppiness in the field.

He also really let fly at some reserves who sat enthralled watching the Railways vs Punjab final of the National Hockey Championships for the Rangaswamy Cup on the idiot box. In Madan's scheme of life and attitude to the game such behaviour is tantamount to sacrilege or gross indiscipline. Madan forced manager Prem Bhatia to shut the television set and exhorted the youngsters to help out the sweating first eleven players.

Meden Lai and Sachin Tendulker, snapped in a five star hotel elevator. Both are obsessed with cricket. Both are extegenely hard working The chances are that this will be a fruitful partnership and get involved in the team-talk
However Madan is not just a strict disciplinarian in the Bishen Singh
Bedi mould He can be stern but not overbearing so he does not ruffle too

many feathers Madan believes in total involvement for a cause Honesty and hard work is my life's principle has always been the attitude of this gutsy all rounder who



10

learnt his cricket in Amritsar, made his first class debut for Punjab at the age of 17 years but shifted to Delhi, four years later in 1972 for greater exposure.

Such is Madan's involvement, that on that fateful day in the Ranji Trophy final, after expressing his anger, he went from player to player, cajoling and urging them to greater effort.

Manager Prem Bhatia was asked to keep the waiting (for a quote) scribes at bay. DDCA officials were sent packing from the sanctity of the

dressing room. For 30 minutes, Madan the elder statesman of Delhi cricket urged his players to strive for greater glory. Typical of Madan he was in command without being overbearing. It is such an attitude to leadership which cricket fans hope that Madan will bring during his tenure as national coach.

Such attention to detail, commitment for a cause and willingness to sacrifice individual glory for larger team interests sums up Madan Lal, the simple man with a steely resolve, who has taken over as India's cricket coach since Sept.'96. He is India's fifth cricket coach (earlier known as cricket manager) after Bishen Bedi (1990-91), Abbas Ali Baig (1991-92), Ajit Wadekar (1992-1996) and Sandeep Patil (March 1996-September 1996). Australia, with the appointment of Bobby Simpson had set this trend, followed by England with Mickey Stewart. India opted for the role of cricket manager in 1990.

At the annual general body meeting of the BCCI at Mohali, in Sept. '96, the consensus was that Sandeep Patil should be asked to step down. The Navjot Sidhu imbroglio on the England tour and the needless dropping of Saurav Ganguly during the Sahara Trophy series vs Pakistan in Canada was Patil's swansong. He ruffled the two most influential powerbrokers of Indian cricket, former president I.S. Bindra and secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya. The choice for the successor was narrowed down to Anshuman Gaekwad and Madan Lal.

Many critics felt that Madan was too low profile to coach a team led by a superstar like Sachin Tendulkar. The common man's consensus was that Madan will be a 'yes man' as a manager, the establishment's man who would acquiesce to the demands of the powerbrokers of the BCCI.

Madan is however of a different mould. Public opinion in many parts of India was that Anshuman Gaekwad would become India's new cricket coach. However the inspired competitor Madan was quietly confident of being selected. He had no butterflies-in-the-stomach feeling on the eve of the announcement.

Instead Madan said, "I like challenging jobs. I was not surprised when I was selected as India's cricket coach." In North Indian cricket circles, Madan's selection as national coach is being hailed as "yelii hai right choice."

Both Maninder Singh and Surender Khanna feel that Madan will improve the Indian cricket team's work ethic and tunnel vision to success. Both



these former team-mates of Madan scoffed at the suggestion that Madan would be a 'yes man' of the establishment. They said that Madan could crack the whip when required.

When you think of Brian Lara or Vivian Richards or Sachin the adjectives that spring to mind are brilliant, exhilirating and fantastic. When you think of Madan Lal or his former new ball partner Abid Ali (now in financial distress in the USA) the adjectives that come to mind are dependable and reliable. As a player his bowling was economical and useful (remember he got the crucial wicket of Vivian Richards which enabled India to win the 1983 Prudential World Cup), his batting gutsy and fielding exceptional.

It is this desire to excel in fielding which Madan hopes to pass on to the Indian team. He has a philosophic

"I will try my best, adopt a sincere attitude and make the best use of available time. I will work hard with my players and give each one individual attention."—Madan Lai

attitude to fielding. Madan believes that, "you must enjoy fielding then only can you improve. The desire to excel in fielding must come from within. It must be an individual desire

Meden Lei (right) during his very successful stint as the manager of the UAE team

and then practice will not seem a hard task."

The soft-spoken national cricket coach feels that players must realise that spectators enjoy watching great fielding and saving runs helped win matches. Madan was inspired to improve his fielding by reading about the great fielders of yore, Colin Bland of South Africa and Paul Sheahen of Australia. He watched Sheahen in action during Australia's 1969 tour of India and resolved to improve his own fielding. When he shifted to Delhi, Madan spent many hours lapping the ground, doing many fitness exercises and practising picking up the ball and aiming at the wickets from all angles under the watchful eye of state

WHAT OTHERS THINK

KAPIL DEV: I have known Madan as a great team man. When we played together for the Indian side, he was always concerned with the team-effort, rather than his own individual performance. Time will tell how he fares but he is a hard-working man who believes in sincerity and honesty. I am sure he will make a success of his job. Madan will keep working with the players and hard work always brings success.

MANINDER SINGH: I think right now, Madan Lal is the most hard-working cricket coach in the country. I have played with him and know him as a fighter with never-say-die qualities. I am positive his appointment as national coach is a step in the right direction. He will improve the fitness level of the Indian cricketers. He is totally involved in cricket. Both skipper Sachin Tendulkar and Madan are similar individuals who believe in positive

thinking.

KIRTI AZAD: Madan Lal does not surrender and I hope that he can pass on such an attitude to the Indian cricket team. His practise sessions for fielding are both strenuous and excellent. As an individual, Madan can vibe with both younger and senior players. In his own quiet way, he can be a good motivator. I feel his positive contribution will be towards fitness and fielding. I firmly believe that superior fitness will enable India to win the close matches, like the four run loss to Australia, which we always tend to lose. I hope Madan gets enough time to work with the national team. This may be a problem due to the hectic, forthcoming schedule.

AJAY SHARMA: I know Madan Lal as a man who never complains or surrenders. He can work hard with any set of players. Madan, 'Gadhe ko ghora bana saktha hai. Ever since I have known Madan, he has worshipped cricket. I am certain he will greatly improve the fitness and fielding standards of the Indian side. The team will benefit from his positive thinking and his never-say-die attitude to life.

ABBAS ALI BAIG: Madan Lal is a competitive cricketer, who can be firm without being overbearing. His approach to practise and disciplined routine is, I think, helpful for the Indian cricket team. I hope Madan's positive attitude rubs off on several of our players. His experience with the UAE, India 'A' and India Colts team will be of help. He knows how to cope with players of different talents and temperaments. I am certain that Madan is now an experienced coach and will be able to cope with the pressures that accompany the. Indian senior team. I wish him all the best for the job, which is very challenging and demanding. Compiled by Ghaus Mohammed



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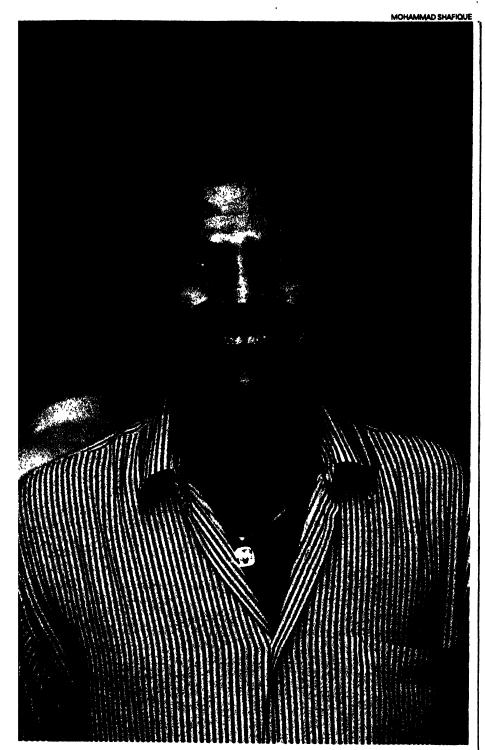
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SPOTLIGHT



skipper Bishen Bedi. "I used to enjoy fielding" is Madan's standard reply when questioned about this department of the game.

Madan, who thrives in adversity, firmly believes that unless you are physically fit you cannot play international cricket and give your best for the country. As a national

Madan Lai: his appointment as manager has been greeted with universal approval. It is to be seen how successful he will be in moulding the Indian team into a fighting unit

coach he wants more time with the players. He realises that with the packed schedule he will get very little time to train the national squad. But he says, "I will try my best, adopt a

sincere attitude and make the best use of available time. I will work hard with my players and give each one individual attention."

As a coach, Madan believes in being a big brother and friend. This was his attitude to coaching during his stint with UAE from the 1993-94 season till 1995. Under Madan's tenure, UAE won the 1994 ICC Trophy and qualified for the Wills World Cup in 1995. The BCCI requested UAE to release him and he handled India 'A' and the Colts team with remarkable success last season.

Maden has always given top priority to litness and mental toughtess; he expects the ladian players to give 120 per cent for the cause of the team

Madan has always given top priority to fitness and mental toughness; he expects the Indian players to give 120 per cent for the cause of the team. He realises that with senior players, the basics can be worked up to a point only and hence wants to improve mental resolve, physical fitness and fielding. Madan will receive full support from the new BCCI president Raj Singh Dungarpur who shares similar views and feels that Indian cricketers are talented but lack the mental toughness and superior fitness to be consistently successful.

Madan who had had greatness thrust upon him has now taken up his greatest challenge—honing recognisable but raw talent into a crack unit. Time as always will provide the final answer. If next September, Madan's contract is renewed, we will know he is on the right path or else it will be one more case of 'what might have been'.

PONTI-FICATE

If RICKY PONTING had his way he would love to call the shots

BY RICA ROY

OR some years, even before his first selection for Australia, Ricky Ponting was acclaimed as a batsman of extraordinary potential. With 12 top class centuries before his 21st birthday, Ponting's authoritative strokeplay had impressed the Australian selectors.

He had set such a high standard for himself that one of his mentors, the legendary Rodney Marsh, now head coach of the Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy was surprised that he didn't make a century on his international debut against Sri Lanka at Perth.

In fact, the man whose injury saw Ponting propel himself in the Australian squad and emerge from his permanent reserve status to make his debut at the **WACA** ground Steve Waugh accounted, "We fully expected him to get a hundred in the first Test." And Marsh further accentuated, "He's that sort of a kid. Without doubt he's the best young batsman who has come through the Academy in my five years there. He's a once in a generation player".

Scoring 96 in his maiden outing Ponting played superbly, confirming his rating as one of the finest



Ponting is an enormously talented betsman and has the reputation of wrecking the psyche of any bowler

young players in the world cricket, "Someone to rank even with Sachin Tendulkar," says Rodney Marsh.

It seemed to everybody that he was denied the chance of joining the elite band to make a century on debut only by an apparently poor lbw decision by visiting umpire Khizar Hayat. Side view replays showed, however, that the ball was clearly going to bounce over the top of the stumps. Team-mate and fellow debutant Stuart Law said, "I really felt for the kid, specially the way he was given out, I had a lump in my throat. It was a tragedy for him."

The Aussies today view Ponting as an ideal

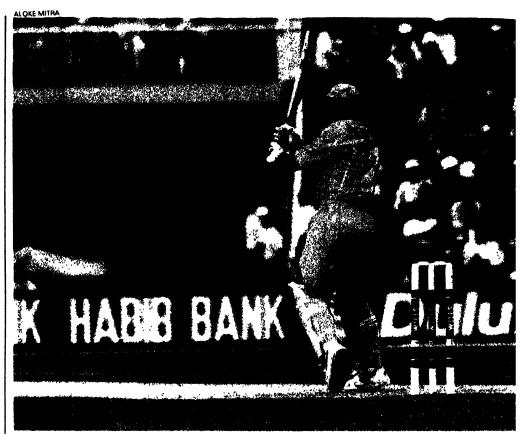
replacement of his near neighbour at Tasmania, David Boon, who successfully withstood, the barrage of missiles from some of the world's best supersonic bowlers for years. Given that the next major challenge for Mark Taylor's team is to defend the Frank Worrell Trophy on home turf, Australia's new No. 3 batsman seems to be just about perfectly matched for the spot. Despite Ponting's recent arrival in the Test scene and the credentials possessed by a host of other candidates, "He is the one who stands out as the best equipped to handle a difficult job", says Ian Healy. It's Ponting's indomitable spirit that gives him an edge over other contenders. And the selectors don't look further when a player of the calibre of Ponting is ready, willing and able to move to No. 3 position in a period when times aren't desperate either for Australian cricket.

The former Australian captain Ian Chappell saw Ponting being coached by his brother Greg Chappell with the Australian A team last winter and regards the attractive right hander as a young virtuoso. "He has all it takes to be one of the best players Australia has ever had," says Chappell, "He has all the shots, and the timing of his selection is perfect. When he is in

form, making runs, it's a real treat to watch". The cricket pundits label him as having a good technique, an excellent temperament and a sharp cricketing brain. His nimble footwork quickly has him in position to execute any shot, but he excels when playing with a horizontal bat. He always has those shots under control, neither trying to hit too hard. Often opposing bowlers try to lure Ponting with the high bouncer, but he never gets suckered into playing a bad shot.

According to any world class captain it is preferable to have at least one player in the top three who can face the short pitched stuff, and Ponting is ideally equipped to dampen the enthusiasm of the opposition fast bowlers. The only fear however remains against playing spin-bowling, as he is still not quite adept at handling it. Thus time and again he has been found to have a poor run against few of the world's top ranking spinners. Ponting said, "Nimble footwork increases my options while playing spinners. If you can't get down the pitch and get them on full or half volley you've'got to depend on your footwork."He continued, "Before coming to the Academy a lot of my footwork wasn't quite up to scratch but people like Ian Chappell helped me out a lot. He has also said that Indian experiences would enhance my ability to play quality spin, so I'm very much looking forward to it."

Ponting had first been



Though Ponting does possess a good technique, he is slightly suspect against spin bowling, an area that he has to improve

introduced to the Academy in 1991 when he had a fortnight's visit courtesy of the Century Club of Tasmania. He received an invitation soon after the 1991/92 Australian Under-19 championships, which he dominated even though he was eligible to play at Under-17 level. Ponting admitted that it was easier fitting straight into the Test side after his experiences of mingling with senior players in the Caribbean, months earlier, "Just being out there and realising you are batting with players of the yolk of Mark Waugh would have been more daunting than it is for me now, for I know them quite well. Everything has happened very quickly in my career.

Hopefully I can take this opportunity with both hands and be in the Australian team for a long time."

With twin centuries for Tasmania against reigning Sheffield Shield champions Queensland on the eve of the series against Pakistan, last December, Ponting jumped to top of the queue of fringe Test players waiting their opportunity. By then he had toured with Mark Taylor's 1995 Australian team to the West Indies without playing a Test. "My elevation to the senior team wasn't very surprising for me and my family. In fact, we knew it was to come very soon as I was in top form. My mentors Greg Chappell and Rod Marsh insisted that I should be tried," said Ponting.

As with every successful sportsman Ponting got an enormous amount of backup and encouragement that came from his sporting family. His father, Graeme was a long time Launceston club cricketer and mother, Lorraine happened to be the sister of former Test player Greg Campbell. Thus Ponting was baptised into cricket very early in life and he started playing senior club cricket with the Moubay club as a 15-year-old. His brilliant skills had been evident at a young age when as an 11-year-old he made four unbeaten centuries in five days in an under - 13s week at Brooks Senior High School. He also made a double hundred at Brooks. an extremely rare happening at school level. And in 1991/92, while still

16, was inducted into Tasmania's state squad. A year later when he played for Tasmania in the opening game for the '92-'93 season he was the island state's youngest-ever first class cricketer.

Ironically when he was a teenager Ponting had been a gifted Australian Rules football player, winning several under-age best player awards with North Launceston, before injuring his arm so badly that he was sidelined from sport for 3 months. "I always liked cricket a bit more, though I had intended to keep on playing football." Ponting said, "But when that injury happened I decided to stick to cricket. "Ponting is also a fine golfer and currently plays off a handicap of four.

The young man said that he owed his success in a large measure to Marsh and other noted Academy coaches including Ian Chappell for helping to trigger his rapid rise to cricketing prominence. Not only did his batting get better, his fitness level and his throwing and fielding skills also improved considerably under their tutelage.

Ponting said that it was dream come true to make his Test debut with one of his childhood heroes, David Boon. When Boon hirst played for Australia in 1984/85, Ponting was in grade four at state school. It has been my dream for a long time," he said. "I was sicky to have Boonie at the other end in my first Shield match. I have followed his areer very closely and

rave looked up to him and

tried to follow his path. It is uplifting for the young blokes in Tasmania to see that Boonie has played in over a hundred Tests.

There is no reason why they can't do it as well."

These days the latest
Aussie batting sensation is
often being compared to
his hero David Boon, and is
being looked upon as the
one who could set the
pattern of play in Test
matches, especially if
wickets fall early. He can
dig in and fight his way
back on top as Boon was
adept at doing and could
when the situation
demanded—launch a
counter attack.

If the latter ploy is successful it could demoralise the opposition and make the job of the batsmen following so much easier. Batting at No. 3 Ponting could be well placed to improve Australia's already good scoring rate, and thus ensure that they are regularly in a position to win matches.

As Ian Chappell endorsed, "To me, Ponting has all the attributes and the time's right for his promotion. As American comedian Flip Wilson used to say, 'You don't have to be a farmer to be outstanding in your field.' Ponting is not from the land, but he is certainly outstanding in his field."

It certainly looks like Ponting's got all the right attributes to become a great cricketer. The question is: can Ponting live upto expectations? If his current persona is any indicator then it seems like he's going to hang in there for some time to come.

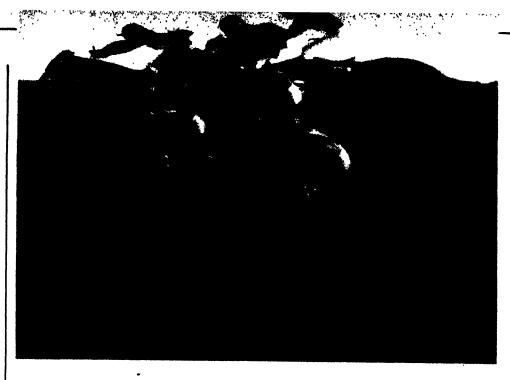


Bats made for centuries

- It began in the year • 1952. It is held on the second Saturday of August every year at Allapuzha in Kerala. What am I talking about?
- . How does the Manipuri word 'Sagol Kangjei' translate into English?
- Which nobleman has 3. the distinction of having introduced polo to the Britishers in the Fifties?
- Name the oldest surviving polo club and the teams which played the first international polo match in 1886.
- 5 A traditional sport from the north western part of India is supposed to have given birth to the modern day kabaddi. Name the sport.
- Bull fights (Corrida) 6. is a traditional sport in Portugal and many Western European nations. Similarly bull

Answer to Question No.5





Answer to Question No.7

fighting also forms an integral part of a festival in Assam. Which is the festival?

- There was a petition • filed against a particular sport on the grounds that it was a disguised form of gambling. The Supreme Court of India turned it down. Which was the sport?
- 29th August is O . known as the national sports day in India. But that day also has an historic significance to it. What is that?
- Chail, a small resort • town in Himachal Pradesh has an unique record in the world of cricket. What is the record?
- Bhanu Shah's 🕽 . museum in Ahmedabad is the only one of its kind in India. It also has a sporting connection. What is it?

- 1. The Nehru Cup boat race.
- 2. Polo. Sagol means horse, and Kangjei means hockey on horseback.
- 3. Maharaja Chandrakirti Singh of Manipur.
- 4. Calcutta Polo Club which was founded in 1862. The first international polo match was played in 1886 between Britain and the USA.
- 5. Sounchi.
- 6. Bihu which is the most popular festival in Assam.
- 7. Horse racing.
- . It also happens to be the birthday of hockey legend Dhyan Chand.
- 9. The world's highest cricket pitch is situated here.
- 10. It is a kite museum.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



BIKRAM KESHARI JENA, C/O RADHASHYAM JENA. KHALIPATANA, PANCHIRIDA. NAYAGARH ORISSA 752 080

All answers sent in by contributor. Readers are requested to sent in atleast 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quizzes.

(DitOttilitatile feat the Salaise Captil Retento, there was distinct divinge in the salaise, and sign each of the players. The normal defeatist scritude in matches against beliation was missing this time around. This is a good sign; hopefully, this postave arrivade will enable India to win competitions from now on.

Things would be much better, if a little more thought is given in matters of team selection and betting order. There has been a lot of messing around in deciding the opening batting combination. Ajay Jadeja or Nayan Mongia, technically, can never be an opening battinan. They are good for a brisk 30 or 40 suns down the order. Mongia should concentrate more on his wicket-keeping.

With Sachin Tendulkar opening the batting, we need a technically and temperamentally sound battman at the other end, who will up hold one side, with runs coming from the other. If he can roll his arm over for 3/4 overs, nothing like it.

garage galligare e grande disk billioner



India has a player in Saurav
Ganguly who meets all these
requirements. Many of the
expert commentators have
strongly stated that Saurav
should be in the opening slot with
Tendulkar in the one-day
matches. Everybody agrees that

Saurav is a talented player. One wonders why his talent is not being fully utilized. He has not been given a chance to bowl since his return from England:

Why is this? SUPRIYO ROYCHOWDHURY,

Ugly Aussies

HE article 'Ugly Aussies' in

Sportsworld dated 25 Sept.-8
Oct. clearly showed that
Australia's success in various
sports is not entirely due to their
flerce competitive attitude. It is
backed up by sound economy
and top-class infrastructure.
Their attitude of playing (and
drinking) hard is a product of
their socio-economic
background.

it brings forth a feeling of amoganice in their psyche. That's

why Ian Chappell could show his bare buttocks or Greg Chappell could sip beer on the pitch from an intruder (Sydney Test vs India in 1980-81)....

In fact, the much vaunted Australian fortitude took a hiding when they refused to play in Sri Lanka during the World Cup.
Their attitude must be condemned as ugly.

CHINIMOY ROY, Chicutta.

Poor Souray

When we want to tathor why on earth a stylish and talented batsman like Saurav Ganguly was forced to bat after Srinath, seven down to be precise, when he is actually fit to open the innings.

How long are we going to throttle this talented youngster? He was never asked to bow! in the Sahara Cup when he is good enough in this particular department.

is this how we improve Indian cricket?

ASHOK BHATIA, New Delhi



EASY

Sandeep Patil's tenure as Indian cricket manager was short and easily forgettable

BY SUMIT MUKHERJEE

Y his own admission,
Sandeep Patil has never
been serious about
anything in life. "From
childhood my idea about life and my
approach towards life has been casual
... I have never tried to change ..." he
says in his autobiography Sandy
Storm in the chapter entitled
"Apology of a
happy-go-lucky-cricketer."

His motto was: Life is short—Enjoy it. The only enjoyment for professionals in contemporary international cricket is drawn from the ability to excel under choking pressure. No wonder Patil, who was labelled as the "Playboy" of Indian cricket during his heydays, found the serious business of coaching the Indian team a bit too demanding.

It was not until he took over the reins of Madhya Pradesh as a coach-cum-player in 1988, that he showed any signs of maturity. The turn-around of MP in domestic cricket was easily the high point in Patil's career, part II, which led to his taking over as the coach of the Indian colts' and subsequently the India 'A' team.

These were his only qualifications for the game's top job in the country. True, he went through the steps—first with the colts and then with India 'A'—but there was hardly any worthwhile assessment of his credentials by the powers-that-be in the Board of Control for Cricket in

Sandeep Patil was considered to be lacking in match strategy, man to man communication skills and had a whimsical selection policy

COME, EASY GO

India (BCCI) who appointed him the cricket manager last year.

The problem with Patil was that he had an entirely different concept of the job. He maintained that players at the highest level do not need a coach. Patil felt his role was more of an elder brother with whom the players could communicate freely. He banked heavily on the fact that his age difference with the present crop of players, some of whom he has even played with, was just right to strike such a rapport.

But, in the days of the Bobby Simpsons and Bob Woolmers, who have added new dimensions to the role of a cricket manager, Patil's UTPAL SORKAR endeavour to establish familial ties in the dressing room was at best a poor exercise in man management.

This was best demonstrated by the Navjyot Singh Sidhu walk-out midway through the England tour. In a crisis Patil's elder brother image fragmented into a thousand pieces. It was just a matter of time before the axe fell on him. The Singer or the Sahara crowns could have perhaps delayed the inevitable, but his insistence on playing Vinod Kambli at

Sandoop Patil (right extreme) having lunch at Saurav Ganguly's residence alongwith Sachin Tendulker: biting the hand that feeds you? the expense of an in-form Sourav Ganguly ultimately proved to be the last nail in the coffin which the BCCI gleefully hammered in.

No tears were shed. Calcuttans, in fact, celebrated.

The Board had, at last, done the right thing, but it set back Indian cricket one year. It cost the country four one-day tournaments apart from the humiliation in England. The ratio of 5 wins: 12 losses in one-dayers—albeit all on foreign soil—in Patil's report card was simply not good enough. And the one good chance India had of squaring the Test series in England was allowed to pass when Patil decided to play along with



skipper Azharuddin and pick Venkatapathi Raju instead on Narendra Hirwani for the final Test.

Not known to be a great thinker of the game, nor for his technical expertise, Patil's contribution was always going to be minimal. It did not help the players suffering a bad patch to have a cricket manager who was hardly qualified to discuss technique.

Twice he has been said to crack the whip at team meetings—once in England and once in Sri

Patil facing the media: most of the time his pic backfired

Lanka—without much success. Oral tonic can only have a limited appeal, especially, from a person who has not exactly been known to be serious about his game in his playing days.

At the Wills-sponsored 'Spirit of 1983' get-together in Calcutta last year (Patil had been named to succeed Ajit Wadekar few days back) some of his old team-mates like Yashpal Sharma, Balwinder Sandhu and Srikkanth were pulling his leg: "Yaar tu ne kabhi fielding ki hai jo saari team ko fielding practice karaega?"

Not only was Patil a reluctant fielder, but off the pitch too he had too

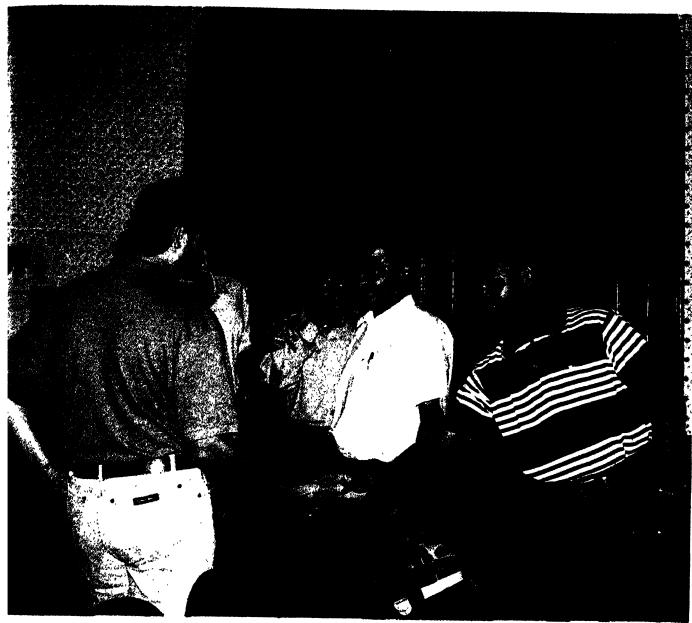
many diversions which perhaps explains his short career spanning just 29 Tests despite his redoubtable talent. His fling with the film industry in the midst of a blossoming Test career showed how muddled his priorities were.

With such a track record behind him Patil was not expected to put Indian cricket back on the rails after the ignominy of the World Cup. He did not.

Ajit Wadekar at least had Azhar's confidence and vice versa. Patil merely went along with the skipper when he took over, and

SCORP NEWS





Patil's persistence with Kambli was interpreted as bad tactics

consequently, lost the confidence of the others like Manoj Prabhakar and Sidhu, who had been rubbed the wrong way during the Azhar-Wadekar regime.

It was on Patil's insistence that
Prabhakar reconsidered his decision
to announce his retirement after the
Delhi game versus Lanka during the
World Cup. Prabhakar was given to
understand that his position would be

restored once Patil took over.

But when the squad for the Singapore and Sharjah meets were announced Prabhakar clearly felt betrayed when he found himself out of the team for what was Patil's first major assignment. And Sidhu continued to suffer silently till he could take it no more.

So much for Patil's
man-management. On the strategic
front, Patil's only contribution was
assigning the role of a pinch-hitter to
Nayan Mongia—an experiment
which had been made under Wadekar

without much success.

It flopped yet again because the theory itself was flawed. Mongia's stance, grip and frontfoot play are not at all suitable for the role. But then, it would have been too much for Patil to comprehend such technicalities. Yet, he stubbornly stuck to theory. And, to Kambli...

By ignoring an in-form Sourav and persisting with a tentative Kambli, Patil rocked the confidence of both the youngsters. It ultimately proved to be his undoing, consigning him to an insignificant page in the history of Indian cricket.

SCORP NEWS

HE home of spin bowling welcomed an Australian side which will rely on a former middle-order batsman (Brad Hogg) and a veteran of just one international (Peter McIntyre) to help bowl them to a first Test victory on Indian soil in a quarter of a century."

That was one of the comments made in the Australian press when the Australian cricket team landed in India without star leg spinner Shane Warne. It was being said then, that the side effects of Warne's finger injury and his absence on the India tour, was twofold. Not only was Australia without the man largely responsible 'for putting the side on top of the world, but it also gave India the chance to out spin the visitors on over-friendly wickets.

Such is Warne's status in Australia, it was being said in the media that had a fully fit Warne toured, "India would have been certain to prefer faster tracks to turners". And with Warne at home in Melbourne, "the reverse was expected". While that comment might sound laughable to many an Indian cricket fan, there is no doubt

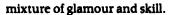
that Warne's presence would have put added pressure on an Indian team which has not done too well in the recent past.

Of course, the Indians have done remarkably well on their home soil and perhaps that record, as well as the fact that Australia has not won a Test match in the Indian capital since 1959, prompted the otherwise determined Aussies totake their Indian sojourn with a pinch of salt. Why otherwise would they rest their two top bowlers: Warne and Craig McDermott? Why otherwise is it being said that the West Indies tour Down Under is the main event?

Why else would Warne miss the Indian tour—where wickets would suit his bowling—just to give himself a better chance of facing the West Indies in Australia?

And the more important question is, what of Warne's future if the injury persists? Apart from robbing Australia of a match-winner, it could deprive the cricket world of a magician who helped revive a dying art with his own

Warne is now recuperating from his operation, but how this long lay-off will affect his career remains to be seen



Warne's spinning finger is one thing. His bowling shoulder is yet another. He is just only 27, but the prodigious spin he exerts on the ball and the enormous workload he bears so willingly are taking an insidious toll on his body. Despite his apparent gradual recovery from surgery to his right ring finger, there is as yet no certainty he will be back in peak condition for the confrontation with Courtney Walsh's West Indians.

So even by skipping the Indian tour, Warne has admitted that the injury to his magic spinning finger might not see him right and could linger into the crucial five-match series which starts with a Test in Brisbane on November 22.

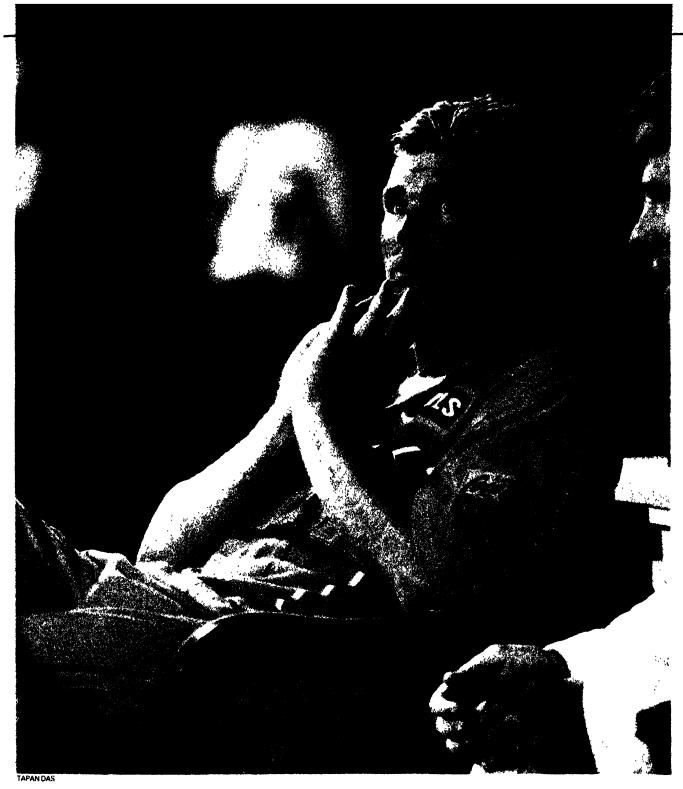
And it is an unsettling consideration for Australia. Warne missed the Sri Lankan tour. Now it is the India tour. And nothing is set in concrete about his Test future.

Warne had spoken to the Australian selectors prior to the Indian tour after bowling in the three one-day practice matches with the Victorian team, of which he is the newly-appointed captain. He had led them in a recent inter-state super sixes competition, but was not able to bowl.

Warne shot down theories that he was scared to go to Sri Lanka and insisted that his spinning finger was still sore. But the layoff has surely affected his ability to bowl and his confidence. "Unfortunately my finger isn't quite right, so the general consensus was to stay in Melbourne and get fit, get the finger a hundred percent right and be available for the Australian summer," he said. In fact Australia has a packed international cricket schedule over the next few years, starting of course with the hugely awaited rematch with West Indies at home immediately after returning from India. Warne has obviously sacrificed the Indian tour for the sake of the hectic two years ahead.

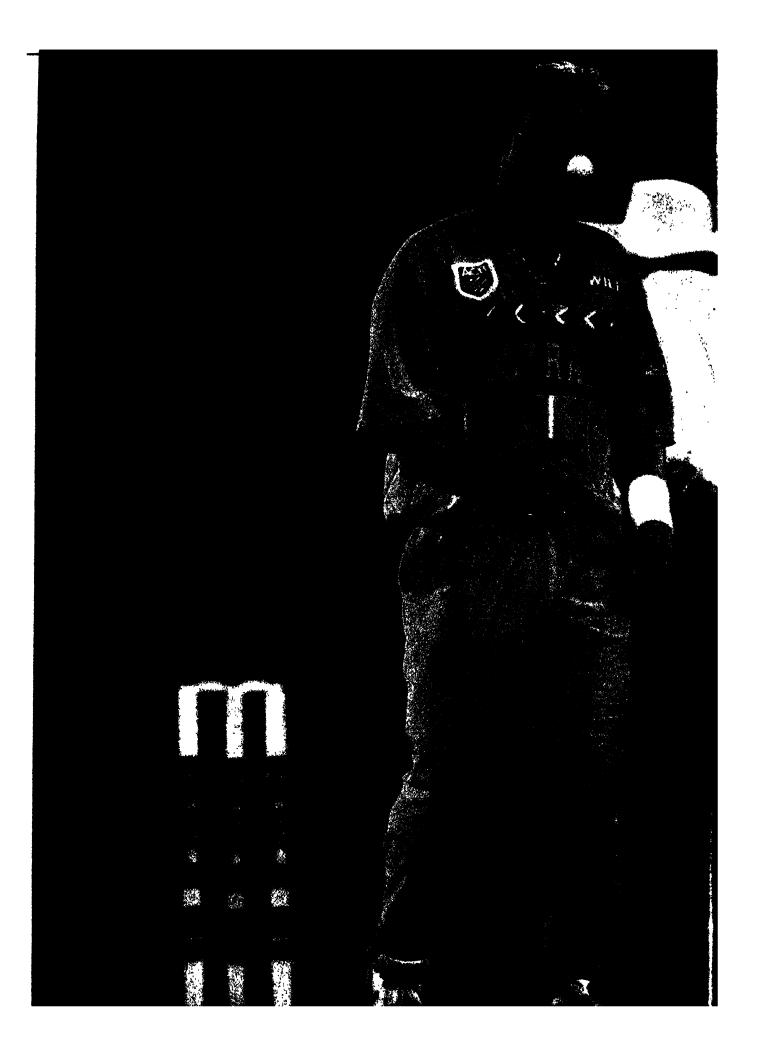
He would have been playing a Test against India for the first time since his debut match in Sydney in the '91-'92 series, a match in which Ravi Shastri

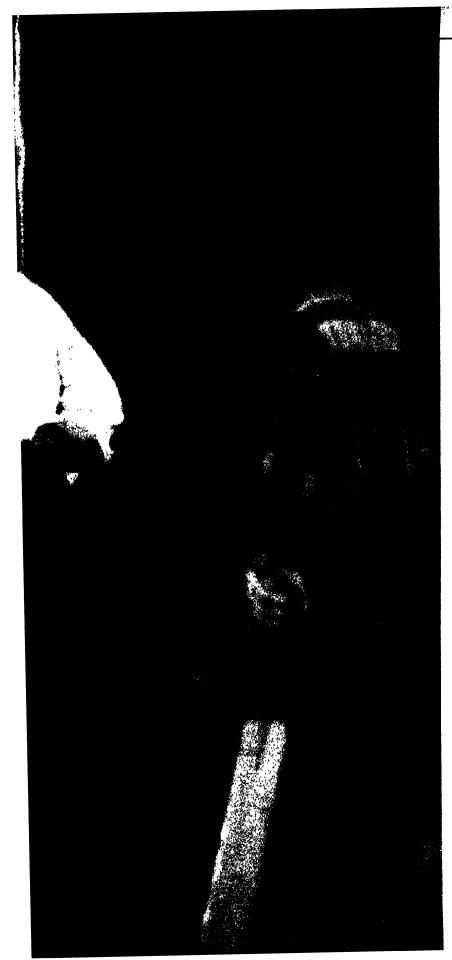




'WARNE' OUT?

Still recovering from an operation to his spinning finger, SHANE WARNE has opted out from Australia's Indian tour. Will things still be the same when he returns? FROM ANDY O'BRIEN, PERTH





Shane Warne has been the match winner for Australia on many occasions and his services will be sorely missed by his teammates

scored a double century and the now Indian captain got a hundred. "It would have been very nice to get the opportunity again with five years under my belt," he said, without adding that the conditions would have favoured him too. But he maintained, "full recovery was the number one priority."

"It's tough missing a tour," Warne said. "Obviously I wanted to be with the boys, cause I miss them and all that sort of thing. But it's the best thing for them. I don't want to feel like I'm letting them down. I want to be able to give then hundred percent," he declared.

When that will be, no one knows yet. Australian cricket team physio therapist Errol Alcott has said that the debate over Warne's seemingly slow convalesence, overlooked the fact that he had an operation, not merely a course of tablets. "Surgery's a surgery," he said. "It takes a long time to recover, especially a distant part of the body." Alcott said the soreness Warne felt after bowling was like the soreness when an athlete resumed running after a spell and was only to be expected.

"I think everything is going as per schedule," Alcott claimed. "Having said that, I would have liked him to tour," Alcott said putting his own twist to the debate.

Now Australia can only wait with bated breath while Warne's finger heals for greater battles ahead. Warne said strengthening his finger would be a gradual process played out over matches played for Victoria in the Mercantile Mutual (the domestic one-day competition) and the Sheffield Shield games. The hardest thing he claimed was "bowling one day and trying to come up the next day."

In the meantime, with the "footy" season well and truly over, Warne's ring finger will preoccupy the nation that till a week ago was frantically concerned about the groin of one of Australia's leading "footy" players.

A SUCCESSFUL ATHLETE...

...Has an equally street smart business manager. Today, an athlete's popularity, both personally and financially, is linked to the savvy of his business agent

VER since champions at the Ancient Olympics received something more substantial than laurel leaves, there have been middlemen lurking in the shadows. Trading in old chariots for new—for a cut, of course.

But the high-profile army of agents representing modern-day athletes is a comparatively new phenomenon, a reflection of commercial reality. Agents used to be the preserve of show business, fulfilling the needs of stars from the entertainment industry -the world of music, movie and stage performers. But sport is now packaged as entertainment and the global audience provided by television has made today's sporting giants every bit as recognizable and saleable as any Hollywood star. Manager-agents are now the norm and very few of today's athletes make a decision without first consulting their financial guru.

The Olympics, with its earlier commitment to the pure amateur, was uninvolved in the wheeling and dealing going on outside the five rings, but all that changed with the advent of the open era in the 1980s. Agents and managers had long been firmly established in the world of boxing and popular American sports such as basketball, (where such legends as Michael Jordan have earned \$30 million a year), gridiron football, baseball and ice hockey.

It was against such a cultural



Mark McCormack: the brain behind IMG

background that lawyer Mark
McCormack launched IMG, the
International Management Group
which is now a multi-million dollar
operation with agents and negotiators
in more than 70 countries.
McCormack began with a triumvirate
of golfing greats, signing Arnold
Palmer in 1960 followed by Jack

Nicklaus and Gary Player, who enjoyed unprecedented success and became household names.

"I now had two routes I could follow", McCormack recalls. "The first alternative would have been to manage the careers of Palmer, Player and Nicklaus in the same way that Colonel Tom Parker stayed with Elvis Presley. Had I done this, I would have had a profitable and satisfying life. I

Michael Jordan earns over \$30 million a year, thanks to a sound business manager

decided, however, to try to do in the corridors of business what these three golfers had accomplished on golf ourses throughout the world. Thus began IMG's diversification."

McCormack branched out into other sports in the late 1960s, adding the talents of tennis star Rod Laver, motor racing's Jackie Stewart and ski ace Jean-Claude Kelly, a triple gold-medallist at the 1968 Grenoble Winter Olympics, to his portfolio. Over the years his stable of sports stars has maintained a steady growth, although he continues concentrating mainly on goll and tennis. He represents more than one third of the world's top 30 golfers and his tennis clientele includes No. 1 Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

McCormack is also heavily involved in staging his own events, such as the World Matchplay goll championship, in addition to providing the commercial lift-off to Wimbledon and the British Open golf championship. The 65-year-old American, who also heads the independent production company Trans World International, has handled licensing for Olympic organizing committees and nurses ambitions to act as broker for the 2002 World Soccer Cup, having offered FIFA a billion dollars for all the commercial TV rights

FIFA and IAAF, the two largest international sports federations, have both brought in legislation to control the activities of agents by issuing licenses. The traffic of soccer players between clubs and countries, with the elite commanding transfer fees in the range of £8 million, have provided a lucrative field for soccer's middlemen. FIFA established its "Regulations for Player Agents" in early 1995 and 153 agents had been officially licensed by mid-May this year FIFA is determined to keep a tight grip on the situation and any players or clubs using unlicensed agents face punishment.

Players operating outside the system face a possible fine of 50,000 Swiss Francs and suspension for up to



IMG signed legendary golfer Jack Nicklaus and met with tremendous financial success

12 months. Offending clubs could be fined up to 10,000 SF, their officials suspended and temporarily banned from conducting domestic or international transfers. Misconduct by agents is also penalized. Norwegian Rune Haugue has the unenviable distinction of being the only official agent on the FIFA list to have had his license withdrawn.

Haugue was involved in the payment of 425,000 pounds in commission to the then Arsenal team manager George Graham for the transfer of two Scandinavian players to the English premiership club in 1994. Haugue was provisionally suspended on 8 August 1995, but continued to ply his trade until December when FIFA withdrew his license indefinitely.

English soccer is awash with agents and they act on behalf of all — from player to manager. Glen Hoddle, who replaces Terry Venables as England team manager after Euro '96, used his long-time agent Dennis Roach to handle the tricky negotiations when he decided to quit his post at Chelsea and take on the England challenge.

The faithful Roach has served Hoddle since his playing days, including during his move across the channel to Monaco and subsequent return to his native land. In contrast, Eric Hall goes for the colourful, loud approach, using his favourite phrase "monster, monster". Hall's earlier clients came from the world of British soap operas until switching his attention to the soccer scene 10 years ago. Hall, like many others, combines publicity stunts with negotiations and goes for the outlandish.

Soccer agents see their careers blossoming on the back of the Bosman verdict which provides free transfer for players at the end of their contracts. While soccer is a team sport, track and field is for individuals where athletes excel over a multitude of different disciplines which vary considerably as marketable commodities.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario is one of IMG's most valuable tennis clients

Success in the glamour events command the biggest reward in terms of appearance money and sponsorship deals in which being chosen as a brand image is like being given the key to Fort Knox.

Many track and field athletes have two types of representative --someone who deals with competitions, liaising with national associations and negotiating with meeting promoters, while the other agents chase corporate sponsors, anything from sports wear and equipments to cars. Athletes' representatives, or agents, in track and field didn't really come out of the closet until 1983 with the introduction of trust funds. Before then, payments to athletes were under the counter. "It was the age of the brown envelopes", says British Athletic Federation spokesman Tony Ward.

It was Britain's Andy Norman who triggered off the policy change, raising the issue at the 1982 IAAF Congress at a time when promoters were secretly paying appearance money for athletes. Norman had been part of the outlawed cash deals and believed the time was ripe for a change.

The whole track and field scene inderwent a transformation with ippearance money becoming egislated through trust funds to be ollowed later by prize money and ash bonuses for world records as the Grand Prix circuit took off. Agents roliferated and the IAAF drew up its wn regulations for "athletes" epresentatives" to protect meeting rganizers, national federations and ne athletes themselves. Contracts etween athletes and agents are for ne season or one year only, after hich time they can be renewed or 'vered by either party.

Andy Norman's career has had its os and downs since acting as the stalyst who bought wealth to the ars of track and field. Acting for any of the top British athletes, he st his position as promotions officer the BAAB two years ago (officially



for irregular practices), following allegations of harassment of a journalist who committed suicide Norman remains on the IAAF Grand Prix Commission and still manages the affairs of the leading British athletes, including world triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards and hurdler Tony Jarrett

Britain's two most successful track stars, Olympic 100m champion Linford Christie and 110m hurdles world record holder Colin Jackson went their own way and formed their own management company after disputes with the British Athletic Federation Both are still strong supporters of Norman 'He was the best thing that ever happened for British athletics', Jackson said

recently

British agents John Bicourt and Kim McDonald focus their attention on the great African middle and long distance runners, while Algerian 1,500-metres world champion Noureddine Morcelli believes blood is thicker than water and has his brother as manager

Not surprisingly McCormack and his IMG conglomerate are also involved in track and field mostly in the US and have nine Olympic medallists and/or world champions on the books including Michael Johnson and Gwen Torrence I lsewhere in the US, there is a crop of agents who home in on clubs or specific disciplines. Joe Douglas and





David Greifinger are linked with the famous Santa Monica Track club renowned for its sprinters including the great Carl Lewis Other prominent American track agents include Ray Flynn and Charlic Wells

Top drawing cards like Linford Christic can command £50 000 just for running but that is only the tip of the iceberg Sponsorship is where the big money is , says Ward

Athletics is 90 per cent amateur, and even at the international level only a

Linford Christie formed his own management company after having a dispute with his national athletics federation



relatively few athletes make the enormous sums we hear about. It obviously helps to have a good agent "

A top-class athlete can earn around £ 250,000 a year appearance money just for competing, and that's not counting the financial cream coming hom sponsorship, prize money and world record bonuses. But such is the strange world of wheeling and dealing the sport: some can get rich without even having to show up. British neavyweight boxer Lennox Lewis is being paid a stand-down fee of £4 faillion not to fight Mike Tyson.

1500m world champion Neuraddine Morcelli believes blood is thicker than water. His brother is his manager

With an agent like that, who needs to train? While personal agents have blossomed, many of these owe their existence to the massive corporate marketing agencies who are at the heart of the billion-dollar industries generated by sport. Sports organizations, as well as individuals, have had to reconcile themselves to taking aboard specialist help to maximize earning potential through marketing strategies.

The IOC took the plunge in 1985 by

hiring the Swiss-based ISL Marketing which launched a programme targeted at multinational companies. ISL was the creation of the late Horst Dassler, owner-founder of Adidas, in conjunction with the Japanese advertising agency Dentsu which operates out of Switzerland. The Olympic Programme (TOP) has proved an outright success. Management and running of the TOP IV programme (1997-2000) will be handled by the Meridian Management company, which replaces ISL Marketing. COURTESY OLYMPIC MESSAGE

DON'T want them to speak in a book that does not say good things about me." Diego Maradona recently threatened the writer, publisher, contributors, interviewees, almost everyone who was working on a book on him. He said, "Anyone who says bad things about me are my enemies."

Well, we all wanted to say only 'good things' about you, Diego Maradona, for a very long time. We struggled, fretted, racked our brains to seek out the best words in our vocabulary to describe you and your indescribable magic. Your art, we hero-worshipped.

But then the 'good things' just stopped happening. The magic failed. Drugs, prostitutes and scandals almost inexorably engulfed a life, a personality that was supposed to be exemplary. Heroic. What else could we have done but vent our frustration, our disenchantment, our shock by exposing this disturbing fact that the god of football actually had feet of clay. Diego Maradona is a false god that we have been worshipping, mistakenly.

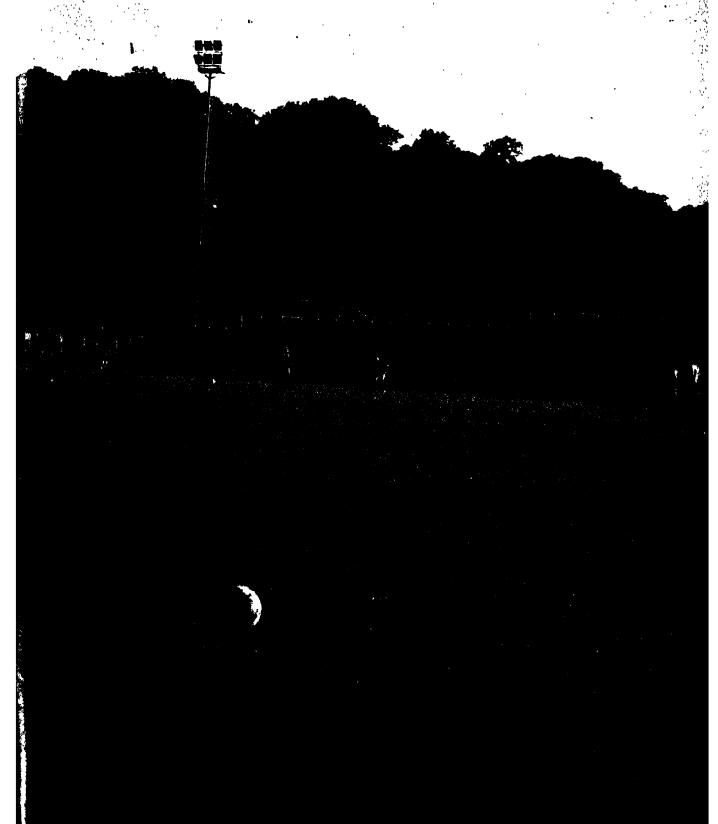
Power without control is disastrous. Fame without virtue means doom. And that exactly is the drama Diego Maradona is acting out in a bizarre show of self-demolition watched by those who idolised him.

It has been a long time since the last images of Maradona careering down a football pitch with his characteristic brilliance were etched onto our minds. Time could hardly have erased them; they were immortal, or so we

o Maradona is now desolate, lonely and act to violent tantrums. (Inset): A raised fist rt of Argentine's campaign



TON WAN!





Maradona playing against U:uguay in '86. This was when he was at his peak: dazzling dribbling skills, a sharp tactical brain

thought. But what Time could not blur is now being so painfully scrubbed away by lurid tales of prostitutes swarming Maradona's London hotel suites, stories of the drunken star going berserk in a hotel in Spain, breaking chairs, tables, doors, even ashtrays, and of course, the persisting drug problem.

Maradona is in and out of drug rehabilitation centres, hospitals, fighting to get over his addiction and failing. On the football pitch, this man was not used to failure. He must have changed a lot since then, learning to accept failure so easily, so frequently.

Or was this the real Maradona, who was nothing but a plaything in the hands of destiny, basking in her favours as a temporary folk hero, and now dumped into ignominy?

Today, the most popular soccer player in this world since Pele, sees himself as embattled—the world against him. "I thought I have a lot of friends. I was wrong. I have a lot of enemies." He prefers those enemies, because he thinks his 'friends' had

betrayed him. Betrayed him by speaking the truth. That Diego Maradona, the greatest footballing talent they have ever seen or nurtured or even worked with, had climbed down from the high pedestal that football had erected for him.

Those 'enemies' of his include Cesar Menotti, Carlos Bilardo, not just the coaches of the Argentine teams that won the World Cup in 1978 and 1986, but, to an extent, the makers of Maradona too.

Diego Maradona has come a long way since then; he has seen his footballing skills blossom under gurus like Menotti; he has enjoyed his greatest successes under the shrewd guidance of Bilardo. And naturally the Menottis and the Bilardos had been profuse in their praise for their soccer protege and Argentina's pride.

Ironically, now Maradona has to resort to threatening libel action against those same people, his former mentors, for talking about Maradona in a book. And the reason, of course, is simple and understandable.

Maradona knows that they no longer have any good things to say about him. How tragic.

We all know that Maradona's

expulsion from the World Cup on drug charges came as an incredible piece of news to much of the soccer world. In our disbelief, many of us even thought that this was a conspiracy. Even Maradona himself hinted at such possibilities while leaving the greatest show of soccer behind. But the refuge that we Maradona fans sought from this conspiracy theory was soon blown apart when Maradona's long addiction to drugs came to light, and the soccer god of millions began to expose the dark, unknown side to his life.

He became a regular at drug rehabilitation clinics; he confessed a number of times that he was not making much headway in his struggle against the addiction, and on top of that his personal life seemed to get more and more embroiled in a whirlpool of sex, drugs and alcohol.

Interestingly, however, Maradona has all along been successful in projecting himself as a family man too, something that does not quite dovetail with his more flamboyant, controversial and scandalous life. He has always loved to pose for photographs with his wife and children, shown and talked about his unwavering devotion to his wife and family; his wife too, has shown herself as a happy, proud housewife, basking in her husband's glory and fame.

And now, since the lurid stories of his degenerated life started making news, the tabloid press found it interesting to focus on this very interesting and puzzling double-life of Diego Maradona. They flashed his pictures with his small, lovely family and along with it described how an army of call girls waited for him at his hotel suite in London.

Apparently, Maradona had ordered his agents to get them there, so that he could have a great time, returning from a night of pub crawling and the papers described how pandemonium gripped the hotel and its managers and customers when Maradona returned and the girls jostled for his attention. Then the party began.

This was shocking behaviour from



At the greatest moment of his career: lifting the '86 World Cup Trophy

a man who had been the idol of millions of young men the world over as the ultimate in physical and sporting excellence. He was their dream their inspiration their messiah. And he still is Even now, wherever he goes on promotional and other engagements he is mobbed adored, and worshipped. And that is why despite Diego. Maradona's current lifestyle, companies like Puma still use him as their sporting ambassador.

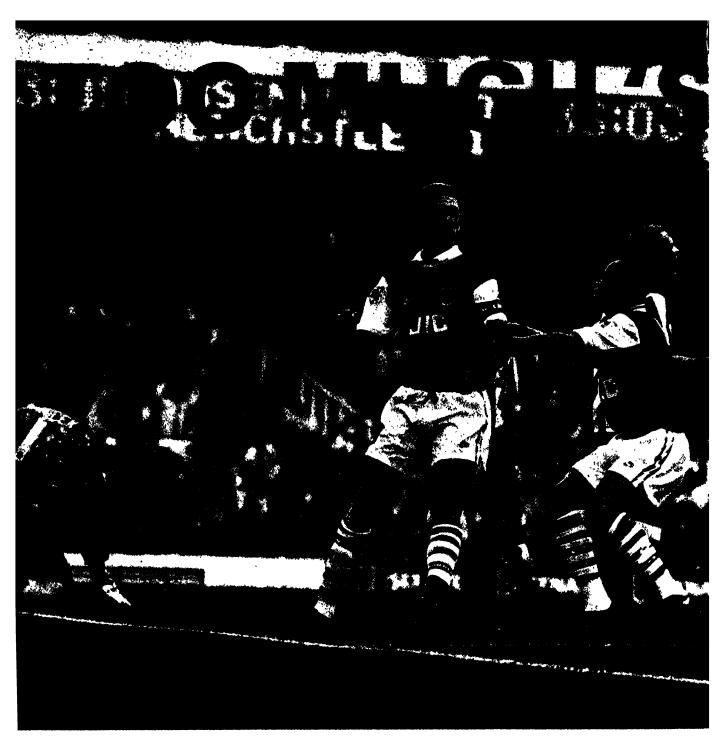
He is still the biggest crowd puller—said a Puma manager He is still our best bet He generates such enthusiasm Yes I think he still has a tremendous influence on his fans

But the question is what kind of influence is he casting on his worshippers?

Diego Maradona is nothing without football and football is nowhere in his life at the moment and when a man has a strong influence on a great many people then that influence is bound to be influenced by the kind of life he leads and represents. Do we have a very encouraging situation here? Does the youth of the world have anything to learn from their hero anymore? Something to revere cherish emulate?

And if you leave everything out and just talk about football, then the question is where is football in Diego Maradona's life now? The last time I heard about something that associated Maradona with soccer was when an obscure club of Argentina which draws less than ten thousand fans to their matches, was considering if they should offer Maradona a job

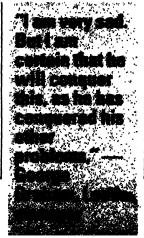
That stragic isn tit? The most sought-after footballer since Pele is now being considered for an unheard of-club in some corner of world-beating Argentina. This is almost like a classical Greek tragedy where the playwright lamented the fall of the great from their high pedestals. Only here character has been the hero's destiny.



top of the world. He is the captain of the England football team. Nobody expected the home team to do well but they ended up in the semi finals of the '96 European Championships. Things were going well for Tony Adams, although he was deeply disappointed that they did not reach the final.

Recently, Adams stunned his teammates at Arsenal when he publicly announced that he has an alcoholic problem.

"I have been attending Alcoholics



Anonymous," he said, "It's okay. I am on the road to recovery. I have a lot of things to do and a lot of things to work on and I am doing it."

Adams said that he had a drink problem for a long time. In fact, six years ago, he spent a few months in prison for drunken driving. He decided that he would stop drinking completely last February. It was time, he felt, to start afresh.

When the English footballers created a scandal by drinking too much on the Cathay



Pacific flight back from Hongkong during their recent trip to China, Adams was not involved in the controversy. In fact, he did not touch a drop of drink during the entire flight.

That did not stop him from going into a relapse after England were knocked out of the semi finals of the Euro Championships. The disappointment was too deep. He started off with just one drink. Soon, he was back to serious drinking. Adams realised that he was hooked back to an addiction from which he had not been completely cured.

Tony Adams (red shirt, in front) after equalising for Arsonal during a Leagu match against Newcastle

teammate Paul Merson, who also admitted that he had problems with alcohol, drugs and gambling 21 months ago. Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker said, "Like the rest of the boys, Merson has just let Tony know that we'll be in his corner and we'll stick together."

To make matters worse for Adams, he's also had a turbulent private life. His wife Jane is a recovering cocaine addict. At one time, their family life was in a mess. To further deepen his sense of despair, his knee has been injured and so far, he has not been able to play at all since Euro'96. Small wonder that he found his solace in drink, once again.

But people in England have shown admiration in the way that he has come out in the open regarding his alcoholism. Drinking has become a widespread addiction in

"We are deeply concerned," said David Davies, the director of public affairs at the club, "Tony Adams can be assured of our total support.'

Added George Graham, the new Leeds manager, "I am very sad. But I am certain that Adams will conquer this as he has conquered his other problems."

Only time will tell whether Tony Adams will win his battle against his inner demons and his addiction. By confessing his addiction, he has shown us that even successful people have frailties. The important thing is to confront your problem, come out in the open and try to win the battle against the addiction.

In many ways, Tony Adams can be looked upon as role model.

William Rhodes

ATOUCH OF CLAS!

The KRISHNAN TENNIS CENTRE is the latest academy to be opened up in the country. Its goal is to throw up players of champion material

BY AMITAVA DASGUPTA, MADRAS

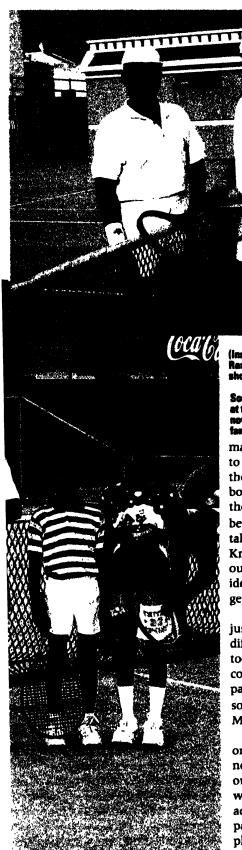
RY and think of a tennis academy in Madras. One name quickly springs to mind—BAT, right? Leave alone Madras, can you name another tennis centre of some stature in the whole of India? Stop scratching your heads, and just give up. Reconcile yourself to the bitter and inescapable truth that, in a country of 930 million, there is not one tennis academy that has come even close to matching the high standards set by the Britannia-Amritraj project.

That, mind you, is not for a lack in numbers. Tennis academies have, in fact, mushroomed in different corners of the country in the nineties. Sadly, most of these so-called academies have turned out to be nothing but money-spinning ventures. People with the right credentials to run such academies have stayed away, leaving the field open for a group of business-minded men who have tried to exploit a sudden surge in interest generated by satellite television and Leander Paes.

But wait a minute. Don't let this gloomy scenario cloud your optimistic vision. There may be hope yet. Hope emanating from the Krishnan Tennis Centre (KTC).

K-R-I-S-H-N-A-N. The very name evokes respect, inspires optimism and even dares you to dream of something





(Inset) Ramesh Krishnen with his father Ramanathan. Their combined experience should be able to produce a few champion:

Some of the girls and boys who have enrolled at the Centre. The fee is Rs.5000 a month for novices. Not exactly cheep for middle class families

magical, something special. For close to four decades, father and son thrilled the world with a brand of tennis bordering on the sublime. Now that the son has left his playing days behind him and with no male heir to take over the mantle, it's time for the Krishnans to unearth talent from outside the family. And KTC is the ideal platform to serve the next generation from.

The Krishnan's Tennis Centre is not just another academy; it looks different (and promises to be different too) from the rest of its ilk in the country. It is situated off a nondescript part of Old Mahabalipuram Road, some 10 kilometres from the centre of Madras.

KTC is a dreamland for tennis lovers once you enter the two-acre plot, after negotiating the potholes outside. Laid out one after another are 10 courts, with provision for an 11th, to be added later. The piece de resistance is a pair of imported synthetic plexi-cushion courts which will be laid out by American experts by the

end of November. Floodlights on these 'special' courts have already been installed, providing the centre with night-playing facility too.

The eight clay courts, each named after its respective sponsors, are already operational. Thirty-five boys and girls, ranging from eight years to 16, are being carefully nurtured by programme director Ramesh Krishnan, advisor-consultant Ramanathan Krishnan, a team of three coaches headed by NIS-trained Paramahansa and chief administrator Air Marshall Iyer.

How did all this begin?

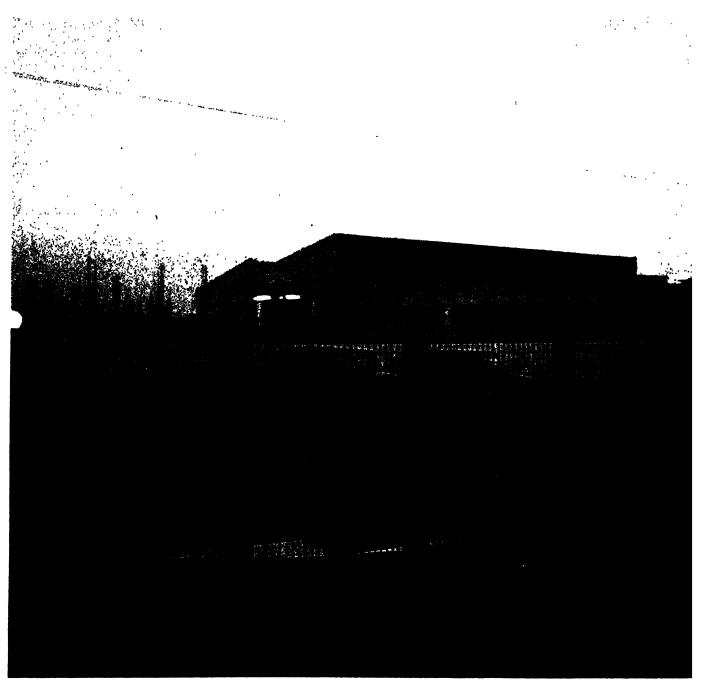
"Well, I had always thought of doing something like this after quitting active tennis. And I'm really lucky that the land was already there. With the price of real estate what they are, I couldn't have afforded to purchase so much land in this age." Modesty used to be Ramesh's middle-name during his playing days. It still is.

The rectangular plot of marshy land Krishnan senior bought 35 years ago has undergone some transformation in the last year and a half. From the owners' point of view, it couldn't have been better utilised. The dimensions have worked out to perfection.

"When we thought of a tennis centre, we were a trifle skeptical.
According to the documents, the width of the plot was 115 feet and the requirement was 120. But when we measured it out, it was exactly 120. That was a close shave, "Ramesh quips.

The economics worked out well, too. A cool Rs.one crore from seven-year title sponsorships for the 10 courts and some others thrown in for good measure gave the Krishnans enough 'power' to pursue the Rs.two crore project systematically and quickly.

Now that everything has worked out so smoothly, how confident is Ramesh of producing the goods (read: champions)? "When you have a centre like this, you would obviously dream of seeing some great players come out of here. But I can't push anyone or force him to become a



The road outside is full of potholes. But the Krishnan Tennis Centre has state of the art courts and equipment

champion. If it happens, it will happen naturally and in due course." Ramesh says, his words as measured and straightforward as his tennis.

But surely, he must be having some plans as to how he would go about spotting a would-be champion from a group of trainees?

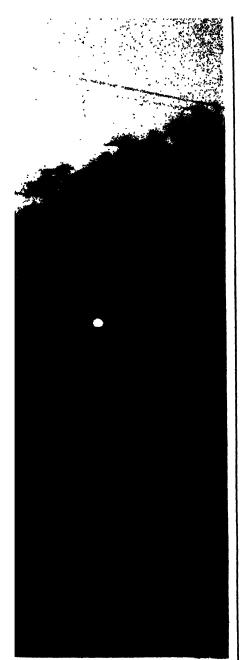
"Right now, I don't think I could be a good judge of talent... This is new territory for me. All these years I was looking at things from a player's point of view. Now, the perspective has to be changed. I am still in the process of learning the art of coaching and understanding the youngsters. Maybe I'll do a better job of it some years down the line."

Ramesh knows there are people who expect miracles from him.
"Some people's expectations are too high... But you've got to be realistic in your approach. I'm here to share whatever experience and knowledge I have with any willing learner. We're

providing the courts, balls, gymnasium, changing rooms, toilets, lockers. It's for them to come and take advantage of the centre."

What Ramesh wants first and foremost is to see KTC buzzing with tennis activity. That's why he doesn't impose too many restrictions on entry. That's also the reason why Ramesh insists on calling it a tennis centre, not an academy. "It's not that I haven't thought of a residential programme. I have, and there is some land for a small hostel building also,

WORLDOFTENNIS



but that can wait."

Talking of producing a Davis Cupper, Ramesh emphasises that an academy cannot, on its own, deliver the goods. "The system in the country has to operate normally. We can fine tune the kids' game, but they have to play tournaments."

As Ramesh points out, the importance of match-play cannot be overestimated in the development of 10 or 12-year-old. He has already shown signs of practising what he oreaches by organising the under-14

nationals at KTC this summer. "I'd like to have one or two tournaments at the centre every year," he announces, with the kind of seriousness and sincerity which you will find difficult to ignore.

Some feel his fees are a tad higher than normal (Rs 5600 a month for new trainees and Rs.6500 for advanced trainees). But that's only to be expected, considering the Krishnans' pedigree. If you are taking

year, leaving the supervision on their ageing parents. It's important that the men who have been idolised by kids be present physically to guide them at centres like these.

Once KTC has settled down in a few years' time, Ramesh hopes to invite foreign professionals from time to time for two-three week sessions with the talented kids. Not the unknown types, but established names like Ken Rosewall, Tony Roche, et al. "That



Remenethen watches as a young girl plays a stroke

tuition from the best in the business, you've to be prepared to face the consequences! And when you consider that at least father or son will be there to oversee the programme, throughout the year, the money should be worth it.

Perhaps, the Krishnans don't want to make the kind of mistake the Amritrajs have—none of the three brothers has the time to be at the academy more than a few weeks in a will be an advantage for us as we know these men very well," Krishnan remarks,

Having spent an hour at the KTC with Ramesh on a morning when the courts were empty (courtesy heavy overnight rain), one wished to be back another day to see Krish and his son interact with the kids.

The family saga started by one Mr. Ramanathan (Ramesh's grandfather) is very much on. For the sake of Indian tennis, let's all hope that the ending is sweet. ■



THE ENIGMATIC & THE EMBROILED

Boris Becker is tennis' tormented genius. Intelligent, intellectual yet distracted. Like a man in search of salvation. As a result there are times when he is too good for the game, and times when he can't help but lose. Nevertheless, tennis cannot do without him

To be, or not to be: that is the question

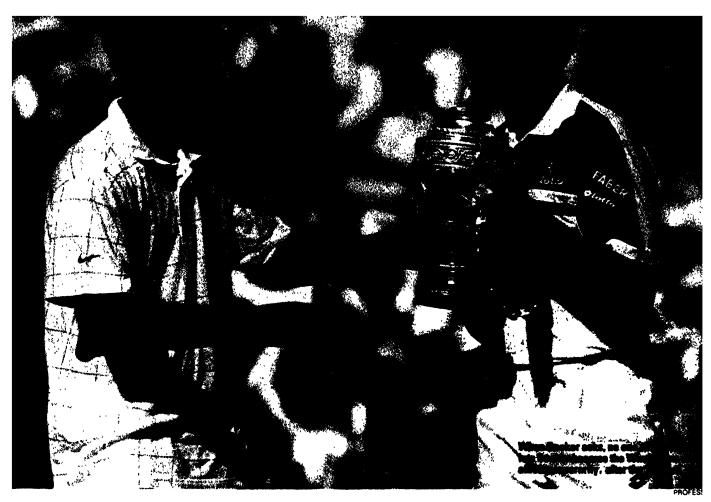
E spoke often of his desires to look beyond tennis for his place in the world. Would it some day be the political arena since his tennis heroics has already made him the most recognisable person in Germany as a teenager. Or perhaps a more humanitarian pursuit, as indicated when he spoke with empathy about

the homeless in Hamburg and other social ills? So be it. Whatever his purpose, Boris Becker seemed afflicted with a melancholy that stems from rootlessness and incompleteness of living an isolated tennis life.

Becker took the sports world by storm with his sensational 1985 Wimbledon victory as an exuberant 17-year-old wunderkind. Displaying incredible power and willful boldness, golden haired Becker appeared

destined for many grand slam titles, and a lengthy reign as No. 1. Though he did capture five more slam titles, including two more Wimbledon crowns, and often starred in Davis Cup competition, Becker sometimes acted as though he would rather be doing anything other than playing

Germany's young Hamlet stands in the cross-hairs of the media target, and the attention can be delivered like



a blitzkrieg. Tim Mayotte, his 1980's rival commented that people "can't even imagine the attention he gets (in Germany). It's beyond Michael Jordan, beyond tennis. 'Becker once reflected on the oppressive burden of being a German icon when he said, "It became 24 hours a day. When I slept, I suspected a secret camera under the sheets. The more I worked to live upto my nationalistic expectations, the more harassed I became."

Like Agassi he sometimes viewed his prodigious talent and ensuing fame as a burden that cost him his privacy and peace of mind. Who wouldn't be infuriated at a German tabloid whose inflammatory banner headline screamed, 'Borls, why not one of us?' when he announced his engagement to a black American? Highly publicised controversies with the tennis establishment —such as his accusing Wimbledon of favoring Nike sponsored players like Agassi for 'show court" appearances—and with fellow players: such as his vrongly insinuating that Thomas

Muster took drugs to beat him in the

'95 Italian Open final—erupted from his youthful frustrations and yearning.

Actor Sean Penn provides an interesting parallel with the restless, yet introspective, Becker. Penn projects such a passionate screen presence that the viewer not only sees

Beris Becker proved at the '96 Australian Open that he can still (at 28) play spectacular tennis when his complex psyche harmonizes with his mervellous athleticism

and understands the character but feels the character as well. His powerful acting style seems fueled by an internal fury, an ever-present uncomfortableness with the situation. The angst that brings out the emotion in his performances also causes Penn's conflicted attitude toward his career and tumult in his personal life. The media has pounced on and sensationalised his fights with the vulture like paparazzi, public scenes and the rocky marriage with singer Madonna.

Penn's acclaimed acting in Dead Man Walking showed he can still produce an extraordinary performance just as Boris Becker proved at the '96 Australian Open that he can still (at 28) play spectacular tennis when his complex psyche harmonizes with his marvelous athleticism. While both can be the best at what they do, they are unfortunately possessed or even haunted by the search for that elusive something more.

Next issue: The Tragic And The Tortured



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SPECIAL LIFESTYLE SECTION

HEY DUDES!

Let's get interactive.....

"Be orderly and regular in your life, like a bourgeois, so that you may be wild and original."
—Flaubert, French novelist

ONEY is power. It helps you get to the right place at the right time. Therefore, your lifestyle is proportionate to the amount you earn. Money also gives your otherwise battered persona that classy, arrogant tone. It changes you from a grovelling wimp to a crass, loud and aggressive "concept'.

a also gives you the licence to dictate and dispense with the niceties of prevalent social norms. What's ple who hate you, have no option but to show that they love you. Believe me, it's a beautiful feeling. Thus, you're even welcome to invade their space—because you spend!

once said that, "Money talks, bulls...t walks." He wasn't far off from the truth. You don't have to ch importance to what's been written here. Do yourself a favour: look around you.

oney. But since my take home hardly ever get's me there, I can only envy those who can do a t. It's true that hard cash can help you get off the blocks just a couple of minutes faster, and ation. Hard cash, and an unlimited credit amount, also helps plan out your lifestyle. And show doesn't want to be with it. And I'll prove to you that Saddam Hussein is only 'half-mad'.

it your lifestyle, you have to be in the possession of very adaptable mental baggage. You ccessories: like attitude, a bit of daring and a lot of pizaaz. You also need to have an innate what's going on around you.

that gives you your sense of style. And style, folks, never goes out of fashion. It can help all statement about you. It doesn't matter if you're in your Levis 501's and Nikes and the ng a Hugo Boss suit. It all boils down to the amount of impact the two of you manage to e another example, a naqli Lacoste stitched (in bulk) in the bylanes of Metiabruz in from the real thing. In that sense, I mean it all boils down to how you can carry it off. writes the script for our lifestyles. And there really is no limit to how much one can buy, enomenon 'aggressive acquisitiveness'. And this sort of funda is by no means designed to it.

cant to hit you where it hurts the most. You buy, is the motto. You don't save. And by this you're own inverted social statement.

s sympathy. Or for them to throw an extra crust of bread at you. What you're saying is that you've arrived! Why? Because firstly, you have to have a credit amount that exceeds more than Rs. 100,000 in order to be that much in debt. Simply put: in order to sell your Mercedes, you've got to own one first. Try telling people that you owe money to the bank in this day and age, you'll blend in smoothly.

Standard Chartered Classic? Err... got to catch a plane.

Diners Club? "We're power-lunching tomorrow, join us."

And so you join them and at the same time you get ready to slay them with your subtle sense of style. Timberland, faded Levis 501's and a Ralph Lauren Polo T-shirt. And while the rest of the guys in the boardroom are choking on their gazpachos and loosening their ties and coat buttons, you're looking as cool as a cucumber.

In this lifestyle section, we try to make a connection about the two spheres of life that are getting linked to each other: sport and lifestyle. Today, we believe, that a person's direction of events, trends, fashions or opinions are greatly influenced by sport. So we've set out to try and find the 'vibes' between the two.

And lastly, spare a thought for this: your *mantra* should be spend, spend, spend. And when in doubt...consume.

After all, like they say on Channel (V): if you had your way, you'd want a VCP with record facility Why? Because no one else has it!

I can explain all these things, but I can never live this dream. Right now, I'm so far behind I'll probably never c e!

F bin Chatterjee

A MATTER OF CHOICE

Styles, fashions, habits, choices, kinks and priorities change, thanks to the pace we live in. If you don't know what's happening around you, read this

WHAT'S IN

LEANDER PAES

NET SURFING

K-SWISS

BANDANAS

SAURAV GANGULY

STAR SPORTS

SACHIN TENDULKAR

FORD

FITNESS FREAKS

WRAP AROUND GLARES

SACHIN ENDORSING PHILIPS

MANJREKAR THE SINGER

SPORTSWEAR

TAX EVASION (thanks for the hint, Steffi)

CREDIT CARDS

CHEST BUTTING

BAYWATCH

HEALTH FOOD

WHAT'S OUT

ANDRE AGASSI

CHANNEL SURFING

ALL THE OTHER BRANDS

BASEBALL CAPS

SANDEEP PATIL

DOORDARSHAN

MOHD. AZHARUDDIN

CIELO

COUCH POTATOES

ORDINARY GLARES

AISHWARIYA RAI ENDORSING PHILIPS

MANJREKAR THE CRICKETER

FORMAL WEAR

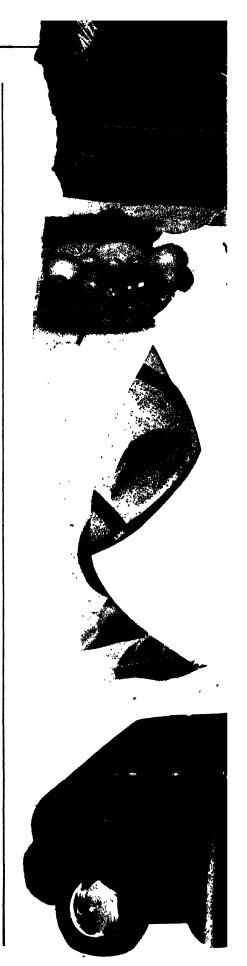
PAYING TAX

HARD CASH

HIGH FIVES

BABE-WATCH

JUNK FOOD





CAUGHT IN THE WEB

Surfing the Internet has become the latest craze all around the globe. We present below some excerpts of a chat with Leander Paes on the net

ET SURFING has become the latest fad around the world and has become an important part of today's lifestyle. Be it is for information, trade or plain entertainment surfing the Internet has become a pastime that has really caught on. Sports lovers can also get a lot of information and at times even get to talk to their favourite sports person on the net and at the same time can be part of a global conversation. Carried below are some excerpts of an

InterNet Chat with Leander Paes conducted at Rediff On The NeT a leading India site on the Internet

So the next time you are in the mood to chat with any of your favourite stars just walk across to the nearest Cybercafe and go net surfing

3D: Leander with the retirement of Edberg, it looks like we won t see too much top-quality serve and volley

any more You think that s sad? (I do) Are there any serve and volley guys up and coming?

Leander: Unfortunately there are only a few serve and volley players in the world today and I think that is due to the power of the game but people like Mark Phillippoussis myself and hopefully a few others coming along the line will keep up the serve and volley tradition

3D.Leander yeah 1 like the way Phillip whatever plays He seems a

Surfing the net has become the latest craze an if you want to chat with your favourite sportsperson just go cybersurfing



little raw though. Always liked Korda myself, too. Not a great volleyer, but a smooth player almost in the Edberg mould.

Chirag:Leander, why is that out of 900 million people there is just one Leander Paes? Is there a dearth of talent? I'm forced to believe this.

Stanis: Chirag, our society in India does not look favourably at sports. Children are expected to do well in their academics and hence it takes a lot to create a Leander Paes. What do you think Leander?

Leander:Stanis, yeah, you're right. Sports is still considered a hobby and not a profession. I can guarantee you through my experiences it is a fabulous lifestyle and has great potential to earn financially. So as far as I am concerned we will not produce champions unless we realise that sports is a profession. And a great one at that.

JPM:ls it difficult playing tennis for a living? Can we call you a sports millionaire? Or is there a great distance to be covered between Sachin, Anand and you?

3D:JPM, I don't know for sure, but I think playing tennis for a living is pretty damned hard. If you are not in the Top-50 or so, the money you make does not even cover your travel/hotel expenses. I think that's even more true in the women's circuit.

Leander:For one you cannot call me a sports millionaire right now as a lot of my earnings and sponsorship go towards my tennis. But at the same time tennis is a great life style and profession. As far as 1 am concerned Anand is at the top of the chess circuit and Sachin and myself are reaching our potentials now.

JSC:Have you been down and out in your career, when you hated the sport



Leander Paes gets to know the opinions of his fans better than ever before thanks to the internet

and wanted to get out? When was that and what made you stay on?

Leander: JSC, from January 1992 to Feb 1994. I was struggling mentally with the travel and dealing with all the responsibilities. Then I really felt like quitting. What helped me was my sincere love for tennis and to be the best player that I could be.

JSC:LEANDER, NEVER BE DOWN!! WE ARE ALL WITH YOU. IF YOU EVER NEED SUPPORT, JUST TELL US!!!

Alex:What did you do after the match with Andre? Did you go into the locker room and bawl? Is that your style? Are you very emotional off court? What do you do when you are travelling on the circuit and you lose badly and there is no one to lend a shoulder? Do you call Anisa? Or your dad/ma?

Leander: Alex, good question. I was kicking myself in the butt for not taking advantage of my lead. My phone bills are huge and I called Anisa and home to talk about the match. Travelling is very lonely being in an individual sport and hence one enjoys communication with one's own

family and friends.

Pankaj Monga:Hi, Lee. This is Pankaj Monga. Remember me? (Chandigarh)

Leander: Pankaj Monga, Hey buddy, haven't spoken to you in a long time. How are your parents doing?

P. Monga:Lee, my parents are doing fine. Just finished playing NCAA.

Now in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Look me up when you are around.

Leander: P. Monga, How is your scooter which I banged up? Send me your address and telephone No.

P.Monga:Lee, My Address: Parkside apartments #22 980 Eisenhower Road, Hiawatha, IA 52233 319-378-4998 (Home) 800-443-3374 (Work)

Leander: Pankaj, I will be in Orlando in December. And shall look you up as soon as I get in. Love to you and all at home. Always, Lee.

P. Monga:Lee, howz Guarav? Is he still alive? He and I got together and hit some balls in Dec '94. That's the last I heard of him.

Leander: Gaurav is alive and kicking in Pune. Shall give him your numbers. I have to go, shall call you in December. It was a pleasant surprise to talk to you again.



country, it's primarily due to the mass bysteria displayed during cricket and football matches. However, while headlines continue to be reserved for cricket, another game that is fast gaining popularity in India is golf. Suddenly, the daily newspaper and TV channels are all devoting space and time to a game which was, till recently, considered a game only for the aged. Sport addicts are all full of excitement at the exploits of Greg Norman. Nick Faldo and Vijay Singh winning astronomical purses each week on the US or European tour.

Interestingly, most or rather all the Indian Metros boast of at least two or more golf courses. Many more are being developed. Soaring membership fees have not dampened the spirit and for most Clubs there is a long queue for membership which could well mean years of patient waiting

This sudden spurt of enthusiasm may be attributed to two major factors. First - on a golf course, you make the best contacts. Two - the sheer essence of the game. Golfers are prepared to forfeit sleep for the sake of the game - a game that combines the refreshing experience of being close to nature, with the challenge of propelling a stationary ball to the often dismally positioned holes.

Doing business on the golf course is the done thing abroad And the culture is fast catching on among golfers in India - aided by the electronic revolution - the cellula-

obone. For years, Indian golf languished in doldrums mainly because of the lack of appropriate equipment and the prevailing misconception amongst youngsters that golf was for fuddy-duddies. However, with the current scintillating performances of our home-grown stars like

Jeev Milkha Singh and Gourav Ghei earning mega dollars,

the game has suddenly thrown up opportunities for the

professional. Increase in prize money, of course, has been a

major factor for this sudden turnaround in interest.

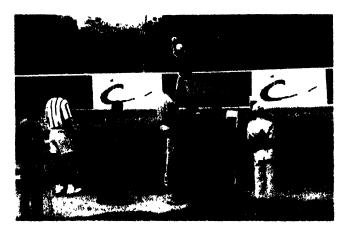
A sport, where caddies had ruled the show till late, is now drawing a whole brigade of amateur talent, many of whom are even armed with business degrees and are now prepared to take the plunge into professional golf A significant stimulus has been the steady influence and

support of Companies like ITC who have sponsored golf



since the year 1964. Since then, the tour has grown in leaps and bounds and the circuit is now worth close to R 1.5 crores. ITC had started their involvement with small purses of Rs. 10 and 15 thousand but now, under their classic trademark, they have their own tour. This er compasses four regional events in Madras, Pune,

Chandigarh and Calcutta along with the Classic Masters in Bangalore. The Classic Indian Open, which provides the opportunity to our Indian players to cross swords with the



best of Asia, is now worth US \$ 300,000. The formation of their own Asia Professional Golf tour also augurs well for the future of golf in India

Our 149 golf courses spread across the country, are today overrun with a mix of successful businessmen, ladies and most important, youngsters So one is not being biased when one says that this game has arrived, and with the continued support from the Corporate sector, will flourish further

It is not hard to imagine, that on a lazy Sunday afternoon, after one has already played a round in the morning, one will continue to click the TV channels and sure enough a familiar Indian Star will loom large on the screen, holding up one of the major prizes of an international golf competition.



PAR FOR THE COURSE!

Today golf has become the most sought-after relaxation sport. Yet, most people are ignorant about golfing equipment

F you're aggressive in golf, you're likely to be a power player in business. Behaviour on the course usually mirrors behaviour in the boardroom—fact or fiction? According to an "attitudinal" survey on 'Golf and the Business Executive' carried out last year by Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, nearly half of the 400 golfing executives questioned actually agreed with the statement above; one third of them went on to admit to having cheated at golf.

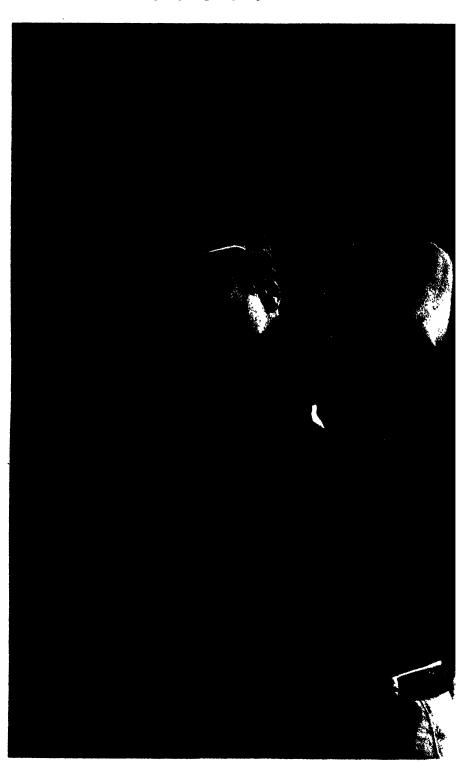
Nonetheless, one fifth claimed to have made some of their biggest deals on the golf course. This is no surprise given that there are seven million high-ranking management executives in the USA who play, using the clean-living yet competitive environment as a setting in which to do business. Golf appears to be just as important an asset on this side of the pond.

"With golf, you have someone's undivided attention for four hours, something you'd never have in a business situation," says Philip Brook, general manager of the Telford Golf and Country Club, whose regular players include executives from blue chips like NEC and Maxell.

One member has secured himself a fat annual salary of 500,000 pounds as a result of chatting up some golf-mad Japanese clients on the course; a sportswear manufacturer, having done his first deal of the day around the fourth tee, pulled off a second with a local sports club owner at a subsequent hole.

So does this mean that people are networking like crazy on fairways all over the world? The ritual of a few

Kapil Dev is an avid golfer. He also used it as a form of relaxation from the stress of top flight international cricket



rounds prior to reaching an agreement undoubtedly helps. A senior manager in trade finance for a British bank feels that through golf he has won the respect and trust of his Indonesian client, with whom he regularly enjoys a round in Jakarta.

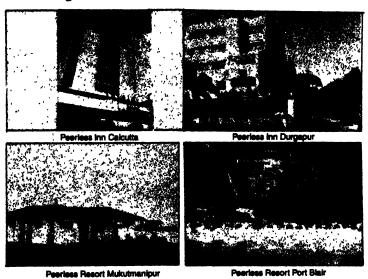
"Playing golf is their way of inviting you to be relaxed in their company," he says. "It helps to develop the right relationship between you and your client. Obviously, the primary objective is to do business but a round of golf helps you to talk about things in a more relaxed environment and information does tend to slip out."

Enjoyable as it is, golf stirs up powerful emotions which are, sometimes, bad for business. On a recent corporate golf day in the UK, a 'longest drive' competition was held. The host hit a brilliant shot and put his flag into the lead position. Three high handicap clients coming up behind

Leander Paes relaxes from the gruelling tennis tour with a game of golf



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WHAT THE PROS ARE USING

Pro	Club	Ball	Bag	Head Wear	Clothing
Greg Norman	Cobra	Maxfli	Cobra	Reebok	Reebok
Nick Faldo	Mizuno	Bridgestone	Mizuno		Pringle
Bernhard Langer	Wilson	Titleist	Wilson	Wilson	Boss
Nick Price	RAM	Bridgestone	RAM	Camel*	Camel*
Erine Els	Lynx	Titleist	Lynx	Nashua*	Ashworth
Tony Johnstone	Ping	Titl e ist	Ping	ISG*	
Paul Azinger	Callaway	Titleist	Callaway	Guess	Head
Fred Couples	Lýnx	Maxfli	Lynx	Lynx	Ashworth
Tom Kite	Hogan	Titleist	Hogan	Hogan	Hogan
David Prost	Cubic Balance	Titleist		Nestle*	Aureus
Payne Stewart	Spalding	Spalding	Spalding ·	Spalding	Antigua
Curtis Strange	Maruman	Titleist	Maruman		Nike
Fuzzy Zoeller	Maxfli	Maxfli	K Mart		K Mart
Davis Love III	T Armour	Titleist	T Armour	T Armour	Polo ·

^{*} in South Africa only

him later decided to tease him and told him one of them had beaten his drive.

The host flew into a rage and started hurling abuse at the prankster, telling him he played like a turkey and sneering at his clubs. He sulked for the rest of the day and never did find out that he had been the butt of an innocent joke. His parting words to his esteemed client were: "I hate you. I've

always hated you."

In Japan, even the best play can be traumatic. We all dream of getting a hole in one but even then, the sweetness of an ace has a bitter tinge. The lucky player can't get away with buying a round of drinks back at the clubhouse; instead, he must give his caddy an enormous tip, throw a party, present fellow members with bottles

of malt whisky and plant a commemorative tree to mark the spot. The cost of doing all of this adds up to around 4,000 pounds.

Back in the UK, golfers might want to avoid taking prospective clients to Ascot's Mill Ride Course, where they will face a hazard of a different kind; a ghostly horse. Brown Jack, a 1929 champion hurdling horse, is buried

under what is now the putting green. Members have reported being mysteriously knocked over on the greens and even president Dickie Freemantle claims to have heard whinying and spooky hoof-beats. The clubhouse is reportedly full the minute the sun begins to set in the dark winter months.

No such problems in Dubai, where the courses are new and pristine and the expats are having a ball. Despite the problems of growing grass in the middle of the desert. Dubai is about to open its third course and is now well established in the Gulf as a serious golf destination and home of the Desert Classic. Abu Dhabi and Oman are building courses too and Cyprus, a good stopover en route to the Middle East, has finally given into demand and scraped the surface off a hillside near Paphos to create the island's first public course, with rather ambitious plans for a further five.

Travel Magazines like 'Business Traveller' has also joined forces with PHOTOGRAPHS ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY



Russi Modi is another corporate big shot who plays golf to ease mental tensions

Country Club Hotels to offer a day's golf on a championship golf course with no briefcases in sight, for the 18

holes to be played alongside the European tour. Pro Jim Payne was one of the leading young players in the PGA. Jim was named PGA European Tour Rookie of the Year in 1992, and last year he won the Balearic Open.

That's the prize for six lucky readers if you are able to answer the six Business Traveller's questions. The prize includes overnight accommodation, use of the extensive leisure facilities once off the green. and all meals. The winners were the first six correct entries to be drawn.

Meanwhile, what about lady golfers? Twice as many men as women in the Hyatt survey said they hated to play golf with the opposite sex. The USA and the UK are the worst; in Asia, it's an added bonus if a woman plays golf. American women executives have the last laugh though; those, with a handicap of under ten, earn on average 25% more than their male counterparts.

T.S Venkataraman

HIGHLY lualified HOME (AL

Full Name

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(Take the name when you buy).

Age

: About 100 years.

Family Background: A member of Bengal Chemicals family.

Qualification

: Extremely effective with a unique smell

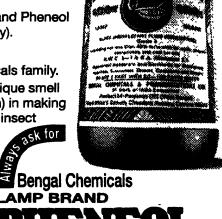
(only a few drops are enough) in making your home 100% germ-free, insect

free and bad odour free.

Extra Curricular

a) A BIG SAVER, as a bottle of it is far superior than the rest.

b) Making the floors safe for the little devils





Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

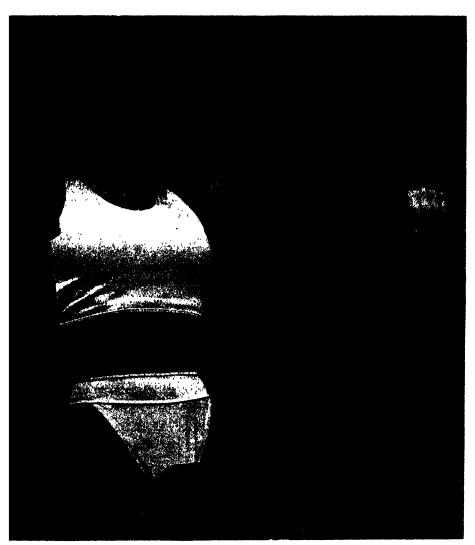
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)



BIS CERTIFIED PHENOL

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!

We know that you value your fitness and health. If you don't, it's high time to get aware. We also know that you want to look sharp, feel good and eat right. In short, you want a bigger slice of life. We also know that you're busy and would sometimes just as soon skip the details and get the results without them. In that case, here are some tips on staying healthy, working hard and enjoying life.



If you are looking for a real sveite figure then you have to work out regularly

MAKE A QUICK COMEBACK:

Don't lay off for too long after you have suffered a sport-related injury. Too much rest could actually prolong muscle pain. Healing requires a resting stage to rebuild muscles. But don't take time off from exercise for too long. Try getting back as soon as possible, but initially take it very easy.

SKIP THE ELEVATOR

The next time you are waiting for the elevator to take you to your room, run up the stairs instead. Walking up stairs burns 150 percent more calories than playing tennis and 23 percent more than running. Adding two flights of stairs to your daily fitness regimen can make you lose upto five kilos in an year.

HIGH TOPS ARE TOPS

High-top sneakers do protect against ankle sprains by stabilizing the ankles. In competitive sports, the best protection is a combination of ankle taping and high-top shoes. You surely qualify as a candidate for high-tops if you suffer from frequent ankle sprains and play basketball, tennis, volleyball or even soccer. In short, any sport where there exists a risk to roll over on the ankle.

COOL YOUR HEELS!

Don't leave your athletic shoes in the car or in the trunk specially during summer and on hot days. Heat and direct sunlight deteriorate and deform the leather and midsole material.

Discover the spectacular South Eastern

Way back in 1887, a small stretch of railway line was laid in an obscure corner of Central India. After a century and a decade it has metamorphosed into a spectacular Railway, encompassing six states of India.

As you travel down the line, varied breath-taking views, steeped in the rich Indian heritage, unfold before your eyes.

The Lingaraj Temple at Bhubaneswar, the Jagannath

temple at Puri and the Sun temple Konark are acclaimed masterpieces in stone. Others include the Mukteshwar Temple, Raja Rani Temple etc. Places of historic interests include Vishnupur, Mandla Fort. Chanda Fort etc. The rockhewn sculptures Dhauli and the Ashokan Rock

Edict immortalize life and times of ancient India.

The South Eastern Railway also stretches across the region which is a haven for the

> lovers of birds and animals. Kanha-the biggest wild life sanctuary in Similipal, Bandhavgarh and the Nandan Kanan are magnificent habitat for various wild life species. There's also the famous Chilika lake—the largest salt water lake in the country on

this route. Birdwatchers and those interested in fishing will have a marvellous time here.

For the nature lovers, the South Eastern Railway route is

a veritable store house. The golden sea beaches beckon you for an ideal holiday. The beach resorts at Digha, Puri, Gopalpur and Chandipur let you relax from the cares and anxieties, and recharge your batteries. Not to mention, several beautiful waterfalls! The Hundru Falls - one of the highest water-falls in the world

and the spectacular Chitrakut Falls near Jagadalpur are tourists' delights.

One can steal a visit to the giant temples of today,

in this region. The Steel Plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Rourkela, Burnpur, Jamshedpur & Visakhapatnam, the giant Aluminium companies NALCO at Angul and BALCO at Korba and three

major ports at Haldia,

Paradeep and Visakhapatnam are worth a visit.

This region is home to several million tribals. providing the scholars and anthropoligists tremendous opportunity to study and document their customs and rituals.





you wish to spend sometime, away from the rush and crowd, there are two hotels with old-world charm run by this Railway, one at Puri and the other at Ranchi which are equipped with all modern comforts in a colonial ambience.

Discover the spectacular South Eastern Railway. The Railway ever concerned for safety, security, punctuality and instant satisfaction.



SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY

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FIT OR FAT

TAT. It is probably the only show letter word that can make you want to a cease living. Beople go in for exercise because what they are buildementally looking for is fat loss and then muscle gain. And those who so into the gym put the species through helish torture, fasting, diet foods

and a muderous exercise regimen.

Yet, what a lot of people forget is the fact that a certain amount of body ist serves a number of visit junctions. In addition to being the best energy storehouse, ist provides insultation for the heart and kidneys. Everyone has fat, guya, right down to the boniest marathon runner to the anorexic. In fact, here's some good newsitor these people who consider themselves fat: 'normal' people have soughly 25 billion fat cells. Then again, you can tilm down but you cannot eliminate fat cells by dicting.

WHAT MAKES A RACKET

If your tennis racket twists in your hand the grip is probably too small. I you find that your arm gets tired fron hanging on too tightly, the grip is too big.

RUN STRAIGHT

Leaning forward when you run puts pressure on your spinal disks and increases the risk of back pain

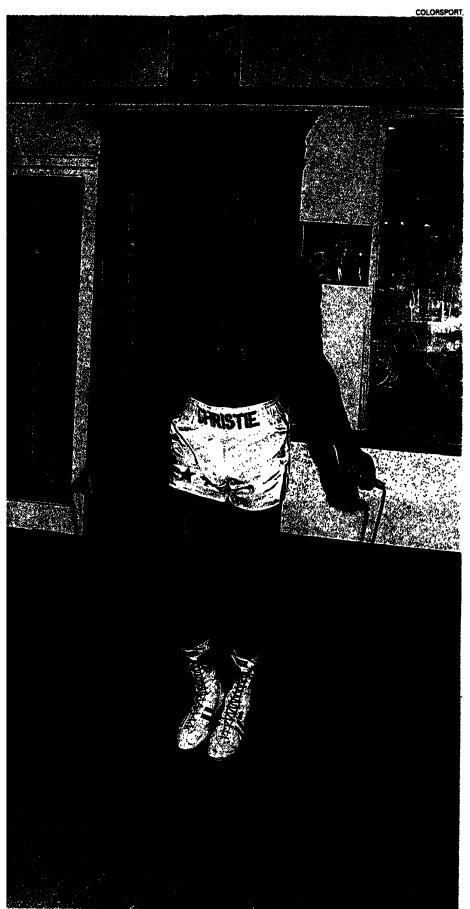
HOW TO BUY SUNGLASSES

How do you judge how dark your sunglasses should be? Slip on the pair of sunglasses you intend to buy and



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Skipping is a time tested exercise and is practised by all aportsmen. It has superi aerobic qualities

look into a mirror. If you can see your eyes through the sunglasses then they are not too dark for you.

BE COOL IN THE SHOWER

After a workout don't go in for a hot shower.....or for that matter a cold one. Go in for a lukewarm shower instead. Hot showers slow down circulation and blood pressure. Cold showers on the other hand tend to raise blood pressure and may put too much load on the heart. A lukewarm shower on the other hand keeps you alert without any shocks.

CHECKING A BEER BELLY

Measure the circumference of your waist and hips. If your waist is bigger, your risk of hypertension, diabetes, heart attack and a stroke is at least two times greater than if your waist was smaller than your hips.

SWEAT TO RELAX

Exercising for 40 minutes can result in reduced stress levels for upto three hours. So the next time you get that all familiar attack of blues do what you've seldom done before. Go for a run or do a light workout. Once you've sweated it out, the feeling is an experience in itself

TALK....TO YOURSELF

Talking to yourself can be a great stress reliever and will often help you find solutions to problems which you thought were difficult to solve. So don't be afraid to have a private conversation with yourself. It is probably the best, and the cheapest way, to find solutions amidst the chaos that exists in today's life. It certainly will help you to view problems from a distance and help find a new perspective which till then had eluded you.

TIME IT PERFECTLY

If you are looking for a productive meeting with your client or your boss, chances of your succeeding are high if you time it right. Psychologists say



YOU GOTTA KNOW YOUR PRESSURE

What exactly does your blood pressure mean, and what role does it play in your life? Blood pressure problems are the most common and sometimes the most fateful in today's stress-filled world. People all around the world, specially those who lead a sedentary lifestyle are victims of pressure-related problems. We present a brief as to what blood pressure is all about. Readers are requested to get their blood pressure checked often. Not only does it increase the chances of early detection, it also increases the chances of finding a cure fast.

Blood pressure is the force exerted against the walls of your arteries as blood flows through them. When your heart contracts to pump blood out, blood pressure increases (systolic). When your heart relaxes and fills with blood, pressure drops (diastolic). Pressure is expressed as systolic "over" diastolic. Normal is usually 120/80 or less.

Systoliic (the higher number) 139 or less Normal 140-159 Borderline hypertension 160 or higher Severe hypertension

Diastoliic (the lower namber)

84 or leist Mormál
85-89 High Rormál
90-164 High Insperiencian
105-424 Moderate hypertension
115 or higher Savinz hypertension

Jogging: an ideal way to combat stress and the pressures of everyday living

that the best time to schedule a meeting is from 9.30 to 11 in the morning. That gives people ample time to get organised, answer phone messages and clear the tables, so that they're ready for business. If a morning meeting is not possible the second-best time is from 1.30 to 3 in the afternoon.

DON'T GET JAMMED BY LOGIC

Logic has its values—as a means of checking the validity of your new ideas. But logic comes in the way of creative thinking because it demands thoughts to be orderly and has to make good sense. Logical problem solvers tend to dash in the most obvious direction and have no room for chancy alternatives—alternate thoughts that could, in the long run, make a lot of sense.

TUNE IN TO GOSSIP

Most of the times the gossip you hear in the office grapevine is true. So the next time you hear something, store it in your subconscious. You never know when that will come in handy. The office grapevine also provides managers and staff with better information than formal communications. So listen up.

CULTIVATE CONFIDENT SPEECH

Some pointers to hide that case of nerves you might get during an important presentation.

- * Place notes on the table instead of holding them and do not staple the pages together.
- * Don't drink during your speech. Water jiggling in the glass is a dead giveaway of those nerves.
- * Breathe deeply to help you relax.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

A survey conducted in America proved that the first thing a woman notices about a man is the way he dresses. Other attention getters are the face, the eyes and the smile. Power dressing is the in thing today, and making a fashion statement in the board room is as important as your presentation itself.

EURO SOCCER

Interesting snippets from the world of soccer

THE THREE R'S

N the Spanish league, critics and fans alike are drooling about the three R's: Ronaldo (Barcelona), Rivaldo (Deportive la Coruna) and the one and only Romario (Valencia). These three Brazilian strikers have enthralled and delighted fans with their sublime, silky skills and lethal finish.

Many doubting Jonahs had queried the exorbitant amounts (a total of 128 million pounds) spent by Spanish clubs in the summer months, on transfer fees. They felt that such large amounts of money could never be justified. Now even these carping critics are having second thoughts, after watching the superlative skills of the Brazilian trio of strikers.

Roanldo, the precocious teenager, with a Yul Bryner haircut cost
Barcelona 12.8 million pounds for his transfer from PSV Eindhoven. His eight-year deal guarantees him 1.3 million pounds per season. Many Barcelona fans thought that Bobby Robson had over-reacted in his estimation of Ronaldo. After all, they queried, can a striker who failed to gain a starting place in Brazil's Olympic side really be worth so much hype and money?

However, at present, the Ronaldo mania prevails amongst the Barcelona fans. His silky dribbling skills and penetrative runs have made him a hit with the demanding fans. Unlike the static Romario who only hovered near the 18 yard penlty box, Ronaldo works right across the front line, drawing defenders out and creating gaps for others to run through. He can function adeptly as a striker or in the

hole behind one or two strikers.

Above all, there is always excitement, in the air when Ronaldo has the ball. He has the ability to create magic, to do the unpredictable. He is at present the golden boy of the Catalans (the region in Spain where Barcelona belongs).

Brazil's 1994 World Cup hero, Bebeto quit Deportiva la Coruna and returned to Flamengo in Brazil at the start of this season. This caused widespread dismay and consternation amongst the Deportiva fans. However, former Liverpool and Welsh striker John Toshack in his second season as Deportiva manager gambled on the promising Rivaldo from Palmeiras.

Toshack's gamble has clicked. After playing a few games, Rivaldo has made a devastating impact. His dribbling skills, game sense and goal scoring instinct has made him Deportiva's top striker and the favourite of the fans.

As for Romario he is making a second coming in Spain. From 1992 to 1995, he excelled for Barcelona. To seduce Romario to leave Flamengo and return to Spain, Valencia paid a heavy price. They paid 650,000 pounds to Flamengo, 2.25 million pounds to Barcelona (who had retained Romario's contract) and for two seasons work, 2.5 million pounds to Romario. Besides, Romario was given a luxury beachside villa and two cars. The temperamental Romario quarrelled with coach Luis Agrones before his first game for his new club and was dropped from the playing

However, Romario has now adjusted and has suddenly got a new lease of life. His breathtaking skills and finesse in the box, has all returned. Playing for Valencia seems to have benefited Romario as the challenge has given his game a new lease of life. His sudden speed, predatory skills and



the ability to strike like a cobra in the box have all returned. Romario on this form could challenge for a place in the 1998 World Cup.

VOGEL THE SWISS SUPERSTAR

MIDST much hype and fanfare, Euro'96 kicked off with a group match between hosts England

ROUNDUP



and unfancied Switzerland. England, all in red, strode out majestically onto the historic Wembley turf confident of victory. The happy ending did not materialise.

A precocious 19-year old Swiss teenager made England become red in the face at the end of the match. It was the day Johann Vogel arrived. (The hosts were lucky to end the match with a 1-1 draw). Prior to the match, he was tentative and hesitant, wondering how he would cope with the pressure of big time football.

Vogel is a great fan of England's midfielder Paul Gascoigne. He later said, "It was an honour to be playing on the same pitch as him." Yet Vogel was not overawed by the occasion. His amazing speed, work rate, distribution and support play made him the Man Of The Match. On that memorable day at Wembley Stadium, he outshone established Swiss stars like Ciriaco Sforza and Stephane Chapuisat.

In the other league matches in Euro '96, Vogel showed that he was both

Last season, in Barcelona colours, Romario played extremely well for the club. But this season, he switched allegiance to Valencia where he is performing equally well

technically outstanding and amazingly mature. His level headed attitude ensured that he never let the occasion trouble him. All the European coaches who watched him perform at England felt he could mature into a great midfielder with remarkable vision and distribution.

Johann Vogel hails from Geneva. He joined Grasshopper Zurich at the age of 14 years. Even at that young age, his maturity was remarkable. Vogel left Geneva for Zurich as Grasshopper have the best reputation for developing young players in Switzerland. His father and grandfather, who are both Grasshopper fans also encouraged him to take up lodgings in Zurich. Vogel took the gamble, left the comforts of home and went to new surroundings to improve football.

The gamble paid off. He impressed the coaching staff. He made his club debut when he was just fifteen years and four months. The erstwhile club manager Oldrich Svab gave him his league debut in a match against Nuechatel Xamax. By the time he was sixteen years old, he bagged a regular first team place. Two years later, he made his international debut for the senior Swiss side in a 1-1 friendly draw with Greece in Athens. A hyperactive player, he has now become tactically mature; his powerful long range shooting is a major asset.

He has already made an impression in the prestigious Champions League in his club's triumph over fancied Glasgow Rangers. So Vogel, one of the revelations of Euro '96, is being hounded by agents from the super rich Serie A (Italian first division) and nearby Bundesliga (German league).

Novy Kapadia

Jacobaccany

OURNALISM, especially sports journalism, is a young man's profession. You need youthful energy to chase people, interview them, type at full speed, and meet very short deadlines. It's a strain on the mind and the body.

As the years go by, you have to put in more and more energy to keep up with the competition. But there comes a time when you can no longer cope. Younger journalists are snapping at your heels. They are more ambitious, more hungry, more keen and, most importantly, they have so much more energy.

The ageing journalist ends up losing the battle. It's a sad sight to see. As he loses his importance, in overcompensation, he becomes garrulous. But people are not interested in listening to him; it's usually about incidents and events that took place a long time ago. About what happened in the '82 Asian Games; about incidents in the '84 L.A.Olympics and so on and so forth.

It's too far back in the past.

Journalism is a 'what's happening now?' profession. People are only interested in the article that you wrote today, not what you wrote 20 years ago. These older journalists find themselves increasingly isolated, irrelevant and out-dated.

But it hadn't always been like that for them. Most of them began their careers with a bang. They were given a chance to cover international tournaments, to see foreign countries; they experienced the thrill of seeing their byline from foreign cities. They had the opportunity to meet and interview famous people.

I remember one such journalist. He pushed hard in his career. He was hard-working, intense, ambitious and tremendously motivated. He covered several national championships and a few Asian and Olympic Games. He rose to a senior position. But in his early thirties, he suffered a major heart attack.

Today, he is a mere shadow of his former self. He has moved away completely from sports journalism. For the rest of his life, he is forced to function at quarter speed only. Even if he has the energy to shift to another gear, he runs the risk of dying.

Burnout is endemic in this profession. Very few people have the gift, the talent, the skill and the canny foresight to have long careers. Most people have intense short-term careers. It's sad, because in your early thirties, there's still a long way to go before your life ends...

What then are the choices for the ageing journalist?

There seems to be just two options. The first is to try and get administrative power. That means, to have a position of authority where you can boss over a team of young journalists. You can instruct them to

Journalists watching events at an Olympic Games. Burnout is endemic in this profession

cover this event or that. That gives a much-needed boost to your self importance. It's also a nice smokescreen to avoid writing yourse

The second option is to move off into full-time writing: to be a novelis or writer. Some of the famous name who made this transition were Graham Greene, Brian Moore, Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Sidney Sheldon. For this to happen, a journalist has to be endowed with creative talent. Despite the widespread labelling of a large number of journalists with the term, 'creative talent', it's a rare gift. Perhaps only 1 per cent in the profession possess it.

Those who are blessed with it can write pieces by just exploring their imagination; no energy-sapping leg work is required. Those who are not blessed with it end up spending long hours in bars, drowning their emptiness in drink.

Journalism is a vocation that — if you are not careful — smashes your innocence, your nobility and your idealism. It's a very tough occupation It demands so much of your raw spiri There comes a time when you have nothing left to give...

So, reader, do you want to be a sports journalist?

You have to think about the pros and the cons. Don't be swayed by the supposed glamour of the profession. Watching sports events in and out of the country may seem exciting. But the truth of the matter is this: there's an enormous amount of stress and tension. Those who cover events rarely have a chance to enjoy the game. Because, all the time, they are thinking of interviews, scoops, copy deadlines, etc.

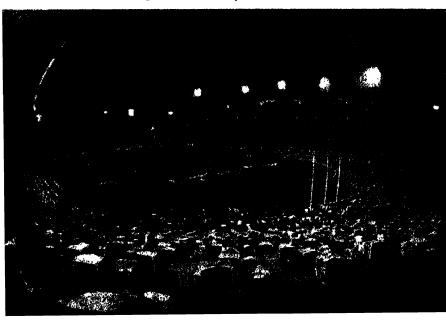
If you want to be a journalist, you have to ask yourself whether you have the talent, the skill, the desire and, most importantly, the stamina to last the length of 40 years or so.

After all, 40 years is a long, long time.

Think hard.

Think once; think twice; think thrice...

Shevlin Sebastian







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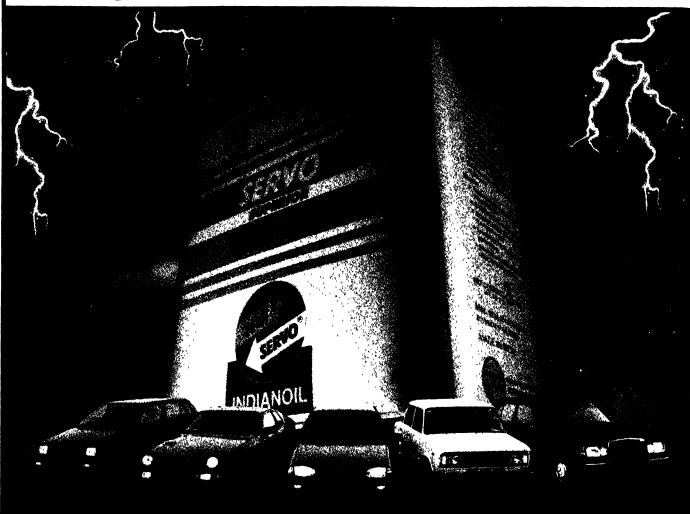
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MEGH AND PEACE

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4

WAUGH AND PEACE

On the field, he is the most dangerous foe. Off it, he's relaxed and an introvert. Unravelling the enigma that is Steve Waugh

30

GIGGLES AND GUTS

An exclusive interview with tennis superstar Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

30

The Arjuna Award causes more heartburn than pride





12

GRAPES OF (Mc)GRATH

11

PAUL REIFFEL: RIGHT ON TARGET

22

PROFILE: SABA KARIM

30

MIKE TYSON: SUCKER PUNCH

Ģř,

DAMON HILL: F1 CHAMPION

62

SPOTLIGHT: ALAN SHEARER

66

FREEWHEELING

OVER PHOTOGRAPH OF
EVE WALIGH BY PATRICK

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF STEVE WAUGH BY PATRICK EAGAR. ARANTXA SANCHEZ VICARIO BY PROFESSIONAL SPORT



HAT is it that the advertisement says about Maggi sauce? That it's different!
Well, so is Steve Waugh. As a cricketer and a person, he's different.

When the Australian cricketers were asked over a year ago by a sports magazine here about the person they would most like to meet, their answers ranged from Princess Diana to Sharon Stone. Steve Waugh's choice was Mother Teresa; for as someone said, he can face the fastest bowlers in world cricket without flinching, but the sight of an 85-year-old nun filled him with awe and apprehension. That's what happened when Steve's wish was granted during a World Cup visit to Calcutta. Waugh, a heavy sleeper and an unwilling early riser, shocked teammates by rising at 5.30am for the occasion.

Then, during the current visit to India, while the rest of the team checked out the facilities on the train that was to take the team from Patiala to Delhi, Steve took advantage of the delay to indulge his curiosity about other places and people, even spending a few minutes in the engine of the train. This difference in attitude shows on the field too. When lan Chappell first saw Waugh bowl he commented, "this boy has a bit of the 'up yours spirit' which has been an important ingredient in so many successful Australian cricketers."

It is perhaps this streak which has made Steve the gutsy player that he is, as well as got him into plenty of trouble both with opposition and some referees. But the way he has been slaughtering attacks with clinical efficiency over the past few years, would suggest that the 'aggro streak'—if it could be called that—has been paying dividends. He is at the height of one of the hottest and most prolonged streaks of excellence in Test cricket and he is aiming for many more big scores saying, "When you are in good form, you've got to cash in."

It was difficult to predict such a

Steve Waugh: a different cricketer and an equally different personality

WAUGH BY ANDY O'BRIEN IN PERTH AND PEACE

On the field, he is the most dangerous foe. Off it, he's relaxed and an introvert. Unravelling the enigma that is Steve Waugh

golden streak for Waugh after his first 20 Tests produced a mere 709 runs at 26.25 and only six half centuries. In fact, it took him 27 Tests to record his first hundred, an unbeaten 177 against England at Headingly in 1989. Figures illustrate Waugh's growing prowess. In his first 52 Tests from 80 innings, he scored 2,503 runs at 36.27. From his next 29 Tests and 44 innings (till the New Delhi Test) he has amassed 2,438 runs at.81.26. This transformation has come from the start of the 1993 Ashes tour of England and now he has over 5,000 runs in Test cricket at a shade under 50, an average not many current players have.

The other notable watershed in Steve's career came in the 1994-95 season when he suddenly became known if not as one of the best players of fast bowling, then at least the most courageous. In the Rawalpindi Test in 1994, he survived one of the most torrid inquisitions of his career to put the Aussies in control. Waugh, who had until then actually struggled against short-pitched bowling was worked over by Wasim Akram and Wagar Younis at their menacing best. He resisted everything thrown at him for four hours to reach 98 before he fended a Younis houncer off his throat and onto his stumps.

Then there was that man-of-the-series performance against the West Indies where his 429

Steve Waugh can slaughter attacks with clinical efficiency. Indian wicketkeeper Mongia makes an appeal in the Wills World Cun



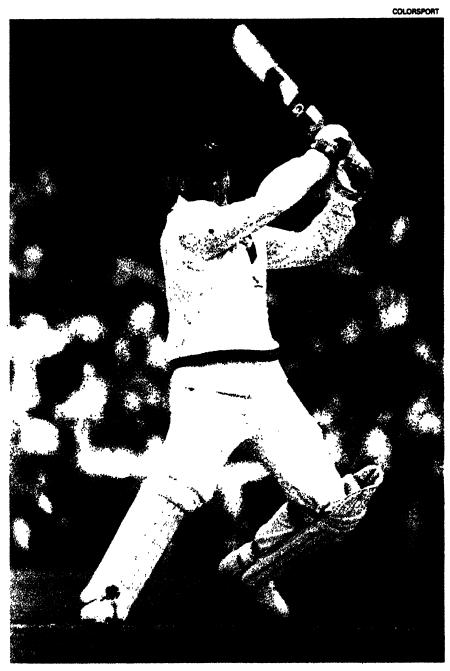
'Waugh Of The Words'

Interesting anecdotes about Steve Waugh, the man and the cricketer

S TEVE WAUGH admits that although he does not play to achieve any particular figures, he would like to finish his Test career with an average of fifty: "I guess if you told me three or four years ago that I'd get to a 50 average, I would have been pretty happy. I was averaging something in the midthirties then. It's not something that I play for, but it would be nice to keep it going and try to get the average a bit higher."

Hamstring and groin problems have plagued Waugh over the last season. Is age, wear and tear catching up with the man who has drawn considerable attention from fast bowlers in recent years? "Hopefully the injuries are just bad luck and not old age. However, 1 have given more attention to preseason preparation this year. I have tried to lose a few kilos and work harder in the pre-season. As a professional, I must guard against injuries. I have worked on building my upper body. I have tried to lose a bit of weight and to strengthen the

Waugh, who recently became a father for the first time, has been playing international cricket for a decade now. Is the grind of international cricket taking a toll on his body? With his steady batting and clever bowling, he is a captain's dream in one-day matches, capable of even bowling the final overs of the game. Does he prefer one-day cricket and how does the schedule effect his game? "Maybe not so much the cricket, but the amount of travelling in a season catches up, especially during a one-day series. Travel is the hardest thing about the one-day rush. It is harder to cope with it mentally if you are not doing well. The plane



trips, getting into hotels late at night and then getting up early the next day to play or train, catches up with you. If something goes wrong with a trip or a hotel booking, it can unsettle you for days. The one-

Steve is more dependable amongst the Waugh brothers (facing page). But together they are a force to reckon with

day games are certainly tougher on the body than the Test matches. The guys seem to end up with a lot



more injuries out of one-day matches where the pressure is always on."

From the time he made his debut for New South Wales. Steve Waugh has been likened to Doug Walters. His back-foot play, his temperament. Like Walters he he has a simple batting technique and he bowls medium pacers which require a lot of thought and thecunning of a fox. He always had the potential to become a better bowler than Walters, but many feel that though he has the ability to time the ball like the man nicknamed 'The Dongog Dasher', he still lacks the Walters flair against spin: "We didn't have any real heroes in the backyard tests which Mark, Dean and myself played as youngsters at home. I just wanted to play the part of the Australian team, because they were so successful at the time,. But I did like Dough Walters style—he scored his runs quickly and that impressed me.

IT is said that one day the Waughs may challenge the Chappells as Australia's great cricket family. With sport a way of life in the Waugh household, the twins started backyard cricket matches around seven years of age and were joined by Dean three years their junior. Like all kids interested in sport, the Waugh boys tried their hand at a variety of games, but cricket was always their favourite: "Mark and I didn't talk much in those days and when we did, it was usually only to argue...and Dean didn't get a chance to argue; being the youngest we just took the bat off him when we reckoned he was out. Now Mark and myself don't look at each other as brothers in the team, just as two professionals who have a job to do for Australia. And as everybody knows, we aren't the best runners between the wickets when we bat together. But there is a very healthy rivalry.

THE story goes that one day while the Waugh family was at dinner, Steve entered the room, breaking the good news that Mark who is younger by a few minutes and therefore nicknamed 'Junior' by his teammates had been selected to

play for Australia. The family celebrated. Suddenly, Mark asked his brother "But who has been dropped?"

"I've been dropped," replied Steve, to help tone down the celebrations.

He had been in international flxture for six years when he was dumped from the Australian side in 1991 for Mark. Steve spent-18 months out of the team and missed an overseas tour to Sri Lanka. It hurt and till today the sight of watching the Australian team on television leaving for the tour is the most chastising blow to Steve's cricket career: "It really hadn't sunk in until I saw on the news the plane leaving for Sri Lanka. It is the only tour I have missed in the past ten years. Just then I realised I was not part of the team and I didn't like what I felt. I missed everything that was going on over there and I missed playing for Australia. But it was probably the right time for me to be dropped. It taught me a lesson and I desperately wanted to be back there." Andy O Brien



runs at 107—including a battered double hundred in Jamaica-were obtained with Ambrose and company throwing thunderbolts at him and his hapless teammates. Then in December 1995, he scored his tenth Test century against Sri Lanka at the MCG —after overcoming a groin injury that kept him out of the game for weeks. He returned again for the third Test of that series to score 170 at Adelaide and became the toast of all Australia. Already in May the tough-as-nails cricketer had topped the batting list in the world cricket ratings.

What then does Waugh say is the reason for this metamorphosis in his batting?

"I suppose it's concentration that has made the difference.

This is what Steve Waugh believes in: "When you are in good form you've got to cash in on it"

Concentration is the key to batting. You must play each ball on its merits and not think too far ahead...just the next ball and focus on that as well as trying to relax between deliveries," he says of the secret that got him four centuries in his last six Tests prior to the Delhi innings.

About his fondness for the West Indies—remember he also scored at an average of 50 in the 1989 series against the then mighty Windies—he says: "It's easy to let them intimidate you. They glare at you and carry on looking for reactions. And if you look at them, they will go for the throat and go in for the kill. You've got to be

prepared to give some back...show you're prepared to fight."

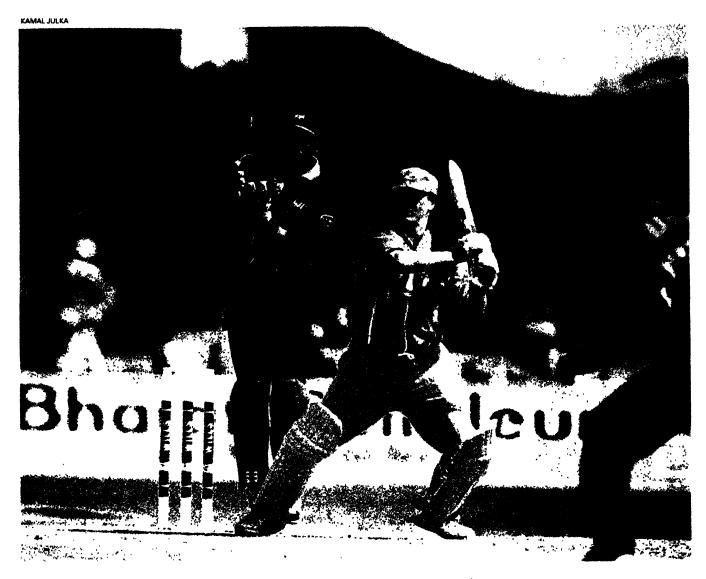
Even as a bowler Steve Waugh is a fighter. That is why Waugh has often been called upon by Allan Border and now Mark Taylor to —what Ian Chappell calls—"put out the fire" and each time he has performed with distinction in breaking partnerships both in Test and one-day cricket.

Without reservation he declares a preference for his batting. "I'm fortunate that I can also turn to my bowling, but I prefer batting. I always had a feeling I am a better batsman than a bowler."

If Waugh improved his batting against pace bowling by learning to stand outside the crease rather than behind, his bowling improved with a better follow through giving him the







extra pace and that famous slower ball which has added to his variety. And if you consider that the level of all-rounders has dropped since the days of Ian Botham, Kapil Dev, Richard Hadlee and Imran Khan, then Waugh must rate as one of-if not the best-all-round cricketer in the world today.

And yet it comes as no surprise, for if not as cricketer, the 30-year-old all-rounder was bred to be a champion at one sport or another. His parents Roger and Bev both represented NSW at tennis an influence carried through to Steve and twin brother Mark, who has played grade level soccer and tennis too. Steve for his part was goalkeeper in an Australian schoolboys soccer side and now younger brothers Dean

The gutsy player that is Steve Waugh. He is seen in action against the West Indies in the Wills World Cup

and Danny are doing well in first class and club level cricket, respectively.

Ian Chappell summarises Steve Waugh's cricket talent best. "What is important about his cricket is that his skill is matched by both his willingness to learn and his desire to compete. For many years Australia had been crying out for cricketers with character, some hard nosed competitors. We have one in Steve Waugh." And that's why it was no coincidence, that one player who knuckled down and occupied the crease at the recent Test in Delhi was Steve Waugh. Not only was he the one member of the team to have

-he made his debut against India in 1985 at the MCG and then toured India in 1986—but more importantly he is a hard man and a hard cricketer who plays his cricket relentlessly and with enormous self-discipline and self belief.

For a man whose surname suggests violence and victory through sheer brute force, Steve Waugh is a pleasantly soft-spoken cricketer. In a cricket world where batsmen are constantly being intimidated before being scalped, he has survived and recently prospered with well directed lively seamers. And in his batting, he has matured to learn how to battle through the tough periods so as to get the easier runs. He is without doubt previously played Test cricket in India | Australian cricket's quiet achiever.



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GRAPES OF (Mc)GRATH

The main frame of the Australian bowling attack may be missing. But that hasn't stopped one man from serving notice that he is one of the best around:

Glenn McGrath

RICKET was a far-away thought for a young farm-house boy called Glenn McGrath But then came a series of events in his life. And by the time they had passed, Glenn McGrath found himself representing Australia in the world of Test cricket. It was something the farmer from Narromine could not imagine would happen to him.

For McGrath it has been a long road to the top Fortunately, for Australian cricket he preserved his small yet significant dream of taking the new ball for Blackwater in Narromine's park local cricket competition. Thereafter McGrath progressed rapidly through the ranks and was eventually discovered by Doug Walters in Tooheys country challenge match.

'On Walters' recommendation, the New South Wales coach, Steve Rixon invited me to trial with his Sydney grade team Southerland," says McGrath A few days later, following that trial with some help from my Mum, Bev, I towed my caravan for a 500 km gruelling ride to the big smoke"

Having played just four or fives games for New South Wales, McGrath went on to the Australian cricket academy There he was nurtured by

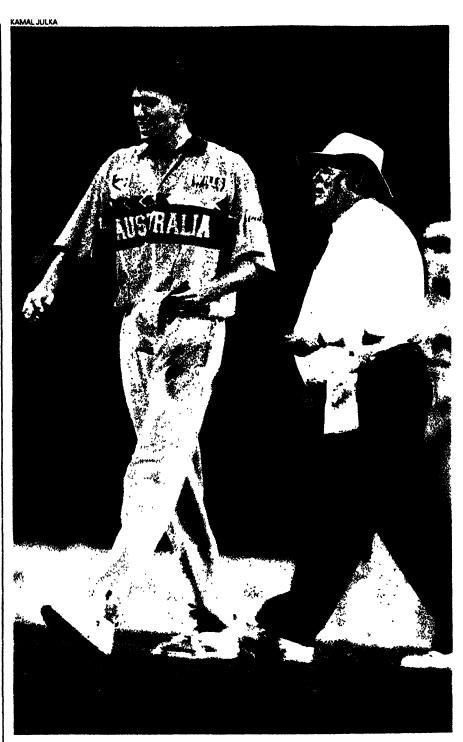
He's certainly a contented man. McGrath has proved that he is as good a fast bowler as any in the world specialist coaches like Rod Marsh and above all, Dennis Lilke. "He (Lillee) shared a lot of his cricketing experiences with me," recalls Glenn. That made it possible for him to learn faster and subsequent; y take rapid strides. "One could see him come up quickly during his time of apprenticeship at the academy," says Ian Chappell. And within a calendar year, McGrath was promoted to the Test squad in 1993 against South Africa.

Despite the trappings of success, McGrath has remained essentially humble. He's hardly changed from the old days, when rounding up the sheep and bowling for Blackwater was a part of everyday life. Some of the pictures painted of him recently haven't in his words, "very complimentary," and in many instances the truth, he says, has been stretched, "I want to put the record straight," he complains. "I am neither a beach bum, nor a thug, and I haven't warned any batsman to bring out extra helmets," he says.

At the same time McGrath also admits that he's no angel. "My job as a fast bowler is not to lay out any welcoming mats for batsmen," he says. No, like his other Aussie mates he hasn't been involved in off-field scuffles to make unsavoury headlines. According to Ian Chappell, over the last year or so McGrath has developed his skills by leaps and bounds; added an extra yard of pace and has really bowled his heart out. The result has been illustrated in his amazing strike rate.

McGrath came of age as an international cricketer on last year's tour of the Caribbean. He became Australia's leading strike bowler when Craig McDermott was sent home with an injured ankle. He relished the duty and attacked the West Indies with the type of short pitched deliveries that most batsmen have endured there for over a few decades.

"I realised they'd bowl bouncers at me so I figured I might as well have a go myself," he said nonchalantly. "And it was great to have the blokes,



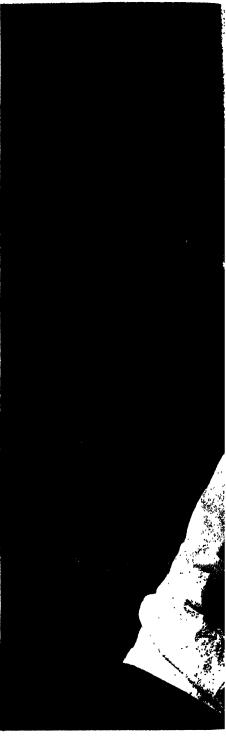
especially Steve Waugh, when he fielded at mid-on or mid-off, telling me to strike it into them." These instances are far removed from the time when McGrath battled just to get a sniff of the ball.

"I was about 14 and the captain of the Blockwater side rarely gave me a bowl....I'd come in about sixth change," he confessed. "I played

He's quiet, and he's unassuming. But give him a cricket ball and he's going to blow you off the nitch

other sports like basketball and tennis, but there was just something about cricket that made me keep coming back. But never for once did I imagine in my years of childhood that I would find my feet in the world of international cricket. Still, bowling





McGrath's a relatively new customer in cricket, but given time he could blossom into one of the best

was just about a passion for me," admits the 26-year-old fast bowler.

Away from the hotly competitive world of cricket McGrath is just a country boy at heart. These days, Australia's strike bowler can't see himself living on the farm, full-time.

But it still offers a release, a place where he can sharpen his edge for the tough grind ahead. McGrath has an affinity with the 'out-back'. When asked for his definition of hard work, he recalls the time he and Dale (his brother) planted close to a hundred hectares of wheat on their own.

"I can't remember how old I was, maybe 16, my dad was in the Northern Territory and we had to fill in for him. It was bloody tough work," he says. "It's always great to get back and unwind....I doubt that I'll live in the bush when I retire from cricket but I'm glad to know it is always there for me."

McGrath has travelled quite a bit from the stringbean bush kid who lobbed in Sydney with the caravan that he would live in for three years. His brushes with fame and fortune



were evident when he went back to the farm, just before embarking on a tour to Sri Lanka for the Singer Cup, in his gleaming black BMW. It was evident then that he looked more like an international cricketer than a man of the land. He says, "I'm really pleased I was raised on the land because I enjoyed the openness of it and the opportunity to do things like camp and hunt. It was a great

The Australians are fitness freaks and Glenn McGrath is no different. The picture provides evidence of that

lifestyle," McGrath offered.

The chest-puffing and aggression that is part of McGrath's on-field persona is typically not a product of the farm-house culture. Far from it. McGrath has shaped himself to keep with the demands of top flight international cricket. "Sure I'm

playing cricket and love what I'm doing, but I only ever need to think of how hard a farmer's life is to realise how fortunate a position I'm in," he says. It's this lesson of 'hard-work' that has served the Aussie bowler in good stead. And that would probably be the bottomline in setting pace to another exciting era of fast bowling from Glenn McGrath.

15

CAN'T BOYCOTT THIS MAN

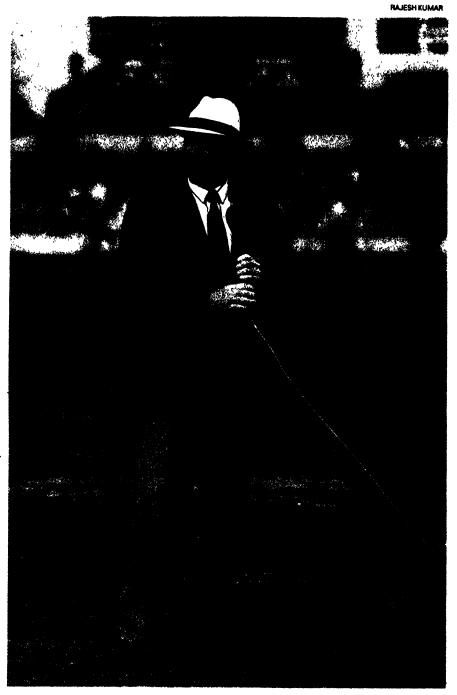
If you're looking for an opinion in cricket then Geoffrey Boycott's the man. The former cricketer and ace commentator is never short of advice and criticism

Interviewed by Mitali Ghoshal

Since the last few years India could not find themselves a dependable opening pair and this is one problem that has raised a lot of questions. And the worst part is that none of the experiments with the opening pair clicked. Do you have any suggestions in this regard? Yeah, you've got lot of good players but no good opener. The only one who can play the new ball is Sidhu, but he was a naughty boy and went back home in the midst of a tour. After him, I see no one who can handle the new ball. For any team this is a big problem. Opening the innings is a specialised job so one needs a specialist for that. If a team gets a good opening score then it becomes much more easier for the rest to bat. I think Sidhu plays the new ball very well.

What should be the right attitude

Geoffrey Boycott is forthright and has an astute cricketing brain and that is the reason why he's so popular as a commentator





of an opener?

Well, the foremost thing is that an opener should have the capability to play the new ball. The new ball bounces a lot and starts skidding and as it gets old it starts moving. So the opener should be able to judge which ball to play and which one to leave.

Do you think that Sourav Ganguly can become a good opening bat in Tests?

Why? He is very good at No.3. Well, if you bring Sourav in the opening slot, then you will spoil a successful No.3 batsman. That's his best position. Then Sachin should come in at No. 4, lollowed by Azhar and Dravid at No.6. Actually, if it's a wicket like that at Delhi one should not fix an opener because it's easier to open at Delhi than to bat lower down. The wicket in Delhi turns a lot.

Nowadays, we see different openers for one-dayers and Test matches. Don't you think it might spoil one's game?

Yeah, it affects the batsman somewhat

Geoffrey Boycott with Tendulkar (left) and Sunil Gavaskar. He may be the most opinionated cricketer going, but he is also taken seriously

because a one-day match is completely different from a Test match. In a one day match the first 15 overs need to be hit out whereas a Test match requires a much more careful approach

How do you rate Sachin Tendulkar as captain?

Well, I have not seen much of him, except at Toronto, and I felt that he is quite good. He has a good cricketing brain and the power to imagine situations a lot. I think these are the major qualities required for captaincy which of course, he possesses.

After he was awarded the captaincy we saw Tendulkar going out for a string of cheap scores. Do you think that the captaincy has affected his batting? Not at all. I do not think so. In Canada, the pitch was not good and anyone

could get out at any time. After all, one-day matches are full of uncertainties, as one has to play a lot of shots. I feel that Sachin has just started off and he will make a good captain, without affecting his batting.

What should be the ideal role of a team manager?

Well, a manager should manage the team obviously. All the problems in the team should be sorted out by him. The manager should manage the team's nets, give practice to the players, but basically I feel the team should be directed by the captain. Managers can advise, but the main decision should be the captain's.

What about the Indian team?

The Indian team has a lot of good middle order batsman and spinners. Now you need only two good openers who can give a good start to India otherwise if everytime they fail it will be difficult for the team. So the first thing India should do is look on for good openers.

PAUL REIFFEL, hopes to be one of Australia's leading bowlers

BY RICA ROY

N 1991, Englishwoman Janet became the new wife of Australian Test cricketer Paul. It was not a shotgun wedding; there is still no mini Reiffels as yet, but Paul Reiffel immediately stamped his authority by declaring, "No son of mine will ever play for England." So, in the Reiffel household, the cause of dual nationality will never arise.

Paul Reiffel just does not satisfy the cartoonist's caricature of his countrymen. No brashness, no swagger or XXX bravado; Reiffel is a quiet, unassuming man displaying a reserve rare among Aussies. In fact, his bowling is often described by the Britishers as similar to Terry Alderman. This is a description Paul refutes strongly.

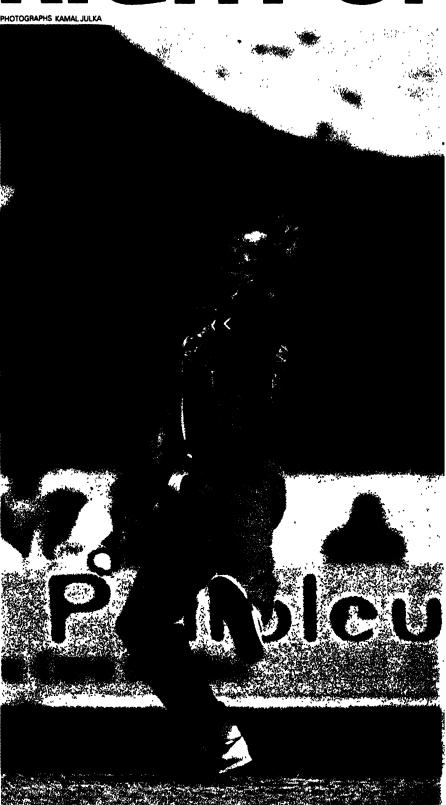
"Terry Alderman I'm not," he asserts and adds, "Alderman was a steady seam/swing bowler. I'm quicker and my strength is that I bowl straight."

It was in English league cricket though that Paul Reiffel's bowling became better. He played for three seasons with East Lancashire in the Lancashire league. This was the same club that greeted a fresh-faced Allan Border in 1978; both players have acknowledged the important apprenticeship afforded by being a club professional. Paul was just 22 when he made his first visit to Lancashire.

"League cricket toughens you up mentally," he said. "You have to cope with the pressure to carry the whole team. Practically overnight, I had

Paul Reiffel, despite serious back problems, has been determined, hard-working and proud to play for his country

RIGHT ON



TARGET!



become a senior player in a team of individuals who were predominantly much older to me. It helped my bowling. I began to bowl a much fuller length."

As Paul reminiscensed about his early days, a wry smile creased his angular face; his gold earrings glittered in the late evening sun as he reflected on the West Indies tour that has made him into the celebrated bowler he is today.

"When Craig (McDermott) had to return home, I knew that this was my chance. I had set my sights on that tour. It was now a case of sink or swim. It was an intimidating tour, but a great place to play cricket," says the Australian fast bowler. Reiffel, of course, played a major role in Australian's Carribbean success and it came on the back of the most depressing time of his international career. He had been selected for the tour of South Africa but was left out of the tour to Pakistan in August, 1994, having been replaced by Damien Fleming.

"I just didn't know why," he complains, "so I concentrated the whole summer in getting back. I worked hard, real hard. It was a real uphill struggle but I had a good Shield season, then played in the team against England and was selected for a one day tournament in NZ. I did okay there and was rewarded with a place for the Windies tour."

Reiffel's early cricketing days were spent in the large back garden at his family home. His father Ron was a keen afficianado but the domestic games included three sisters— Sally, Wendy and Robyn and Paul himself, who always imagined himself to be a Dennis Lillie. The Ashwood Cricket Club was where Reiffel was first spotted and selected for Victoria's under 16 side touring the state capital.

Paul then moved on to Richmond. By then, he was an out and out quickie, moving swiftly into the first XI and winning his first international recognition as a member of the Australian Under 19 party that toured Sri Lanka and India in 1985.

"That tour kick-started my career



Regular warm-up exercises is a must for Reiffel to keep injuries at bay

and gave me confidence. It gave me a tougher attitude. I learned about touring and it made me more hungry I learned the strains and pains of touring the sub-continent. Cricket's played in a real hard way there. I wish to get back to India for the series."

debut against his hero and fellow backsufferer Dennis Lillee who was playing for Tasmania during the 1986-87 season.

Soon came his first senior call up, a one day international against India at the SCG and a place in the 12 for the

Reiffel is looking forward to the West Indies tour and the Ashes series next year

smiles Pistol, an obvious nickname, "Sidhu, superbly caught by Dean Jones at slip in the second innings."

Though the World Cup and the following run hasn't been too well for Reiffel, he plans to be fit for the Frank Worrell Trophy, this winter and the Battle for the Ashes, next summer. He has already informed his club Lancashire that he no longer wishes to



It's not been an easy journey for him. In 1986, Reiffel suffered two stress fractures in his lower back which forced him to remodel his action. He definitely feels that his career was hampered. "I struggled to make an impression. I was psychologically tentative." Fittingly, after a punishing schedule to regain full fitness, Reiffel made his Sheffield

Brisbane Test against India in 1991-92 series.

"It was a great moment to be in the squad but when I was made 12th man, it was a big let down even more so when I didn't make the next Test at all. But then at last I made my debut at Perth the same year Brilliant."

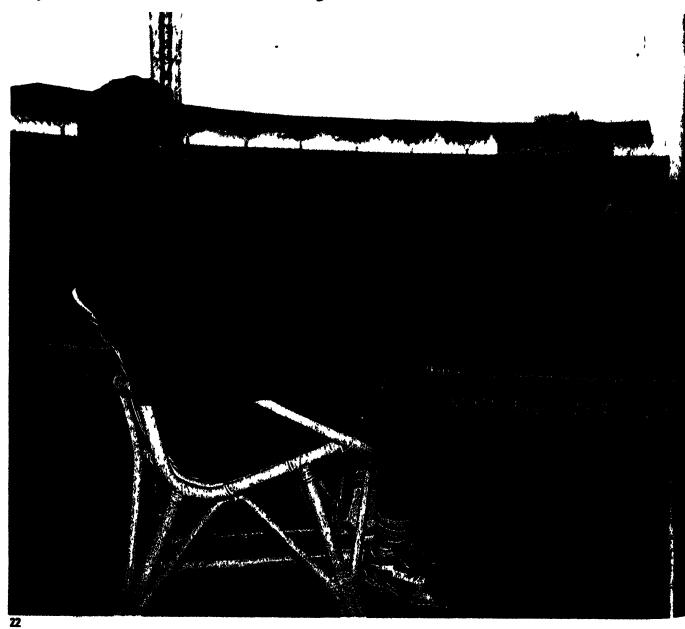
What about his first Test wicket? "Something you never forget,"

play for them in 1998 due to the tremendous exhaustion of county cricket.

Paul Reiffel now waits for the final prize, which for him would be, "A fantastic performance at the Ashes series. And perhaps there would be no bigger reward than winning the traditional battle for the Ashes, next year."

WAITING IN THE WINGS

Wicket-keeper batsman SABA KARIM has been on the periphery of the national team for some years now. His performances have been confident and consistent. It's time he got a chance

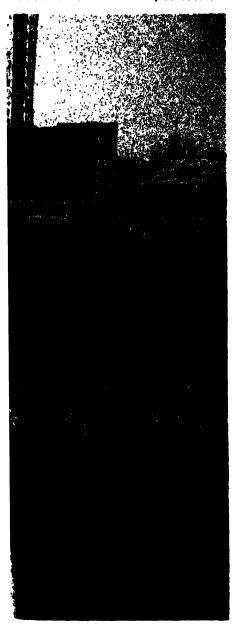


BY ARUP CHATTERJEE

EVEN years ago, Syed Saba Karim thought his international career had taken off. Displacing Chandrakant Pandit, he set out for the Caribbeans as India's second wicketkeeper. His long-cherished dream of playing for the country seemed within grasp at last.

But Saba, who played only a few side matches there, was dumped after

Saba Karim plays for Bengal. He is pictured here at Eden Gardens before a practise session





the tour—another of those selectorial whims where a player is called up because he obviously is good enough, only to be discarded without a trial. The soft-spoken wicketkeeper-batsman has been waiting in the wings ever since, and it is a tribute to his tremendous commitment that, after all these years, he is again in the reckoning for a berth in the Indian team.

The selectors sent out a strong signal before the start of this season by naming him for the Irani Trophy, the India A team for the Challenger Trophy as well as the Board President's XI for the Australian's tour opener. And it may be mentioned that he didn't play too badly in these matches.

Nayan Mongia may have given his tenure as wicket-keeper batsman in the Indian team a new lease of life with that match-winning 152 in the one-off Test against the Aussies. But, when Sachin and company set out for South Africa and then the West Indies, Saba Karim will hopefully be one of the strong candidates for the second wicketkeeper's berth.

Inspite of his reversals, how has Karim been able to stay at the top of his game for so long? "Motivation has never been a problem," he explained. "I've always felt that if I had one good

Checking out his cricket gear while his son Fidel seems to have already decided what he wants to be: a batsman

season, I'd be back in the reckoning. That's compelled me to work really hard. Every game has been an inspiration."

"I suppose, it is also because I've always derived so much enjoyment from playing cricket, and I still do," he adds. "There is a lot of pressure whenever one plays a big game, but the enjoyment comes through to me before anything else. I don't look too far ahead and, instead, take one game at a time. I concentrate on doing well in that game. If I fail I don't brood over it, but just move on to the next game."

Like most others, Karim still can't quite fathom why he was not given another chance after that 1989 tour. "When we got back from the West Indies, I played the Irani Trophy game in November, and got a good fifty against Delhi. I also had a decent outing behind the wicket, but I didn't get a break after that," he points out. "The last time (before the 1995-96 season, when he was selected for the India A team that went on to win the Inter-face Cup in Sharjah) I was selected to play for a team was in 1991, when I played for the Board President's XI in the Wills Trophy."

The tour itself was not lost entirely



for Saba. "To just be a part of the Indian squad, to sit around and discuss the game with players who have been at the top level for years, was an enriching experience in itself," the 29-year-old wicket-keeper reflects.

Saba Karim made his debut with Bihar when he was just 15. Today he has 16 centuries, 21 fifties, and over 5,000 runs in first-class cricket at an average of over 55. He has also claimed over 200 victims behind the stumps. Now 29, he switched to Bengal two seasons ago. It's been a move in the right direction.

"Bengal makes it quite far in the Ranji Trophy and other tournaments every season, so there are always more opportunities to make an impression (on the selectors)." Saba

Saba Karim with his wife Rashmi and son Fidel. Waiting for the big break

points out. "I've learnt so much while with Bihar, and loved playing for them. But I was getting a little desperate because I believed I could still get back into the reckoning."

His employers Tata Steel felt the same way; Saba was granted a transfer to the Calcutta office. Bengal's wicketkeeping problems, triggered off by Sambaran Banerjee's retirement after the 1989-90 season, had been taken care of at last —and more than adequately.

Karim, who followed his two elder brothers into the game while at Patna's St Xavier's School, has had very few problems with fitness. "I've always put fitness very high on my list of priorities. I train basically for my wicketkeeping, so I work to improve strength in my legs, my calf muscles, my hamstring and my back," he says. "Wicketkeepers, especially in India, where spinners bowl 70-75 overs during a day's play, need to be very fit. My fitness has always helped me, and I want to keep it that way."

The hardworking cricketer has also led East Zone in the Deodhar-Duleep ties and the India colts. Saba Karim comes through as a cool and relaxed person, but there is no mistaking the underlying determination. "I'm patient and not easily ruffled by sledging or antics of the bowlers but, yes, I like a contest and I'm ready when it comes along," he says.

Hopefully, Saba Karim will not have to wait for too long.

Innovative!

THOUGH India failed to win the Sahara Cup in Canada, he series has, nevertheless, presented us with some numerous gains

Sachin Tendulkar's new role as captain is very inspiring; his approach to the game is very decisive and inovative. He has nstilled an ample measure of confidence in the team, they no onger show any undue anxiety while playing Pakistan.

The new-found confidence in the team and its absolute involvement in the game augurs well for the future of Indian cricket

C R PANCHANATHAN New Delhi

Shame

AM astonished—and embarassed—that a small nation like Qatar thrashed India (6-1). We were once the Asian games gold medallist.

This dismal performance at the Pre-World Cup qualifying tournament has exposed the sordid manner in which the game in this vast country is handled by a bunch of 'poor' amateurs. It is a sad commentary that a nation of over 90 crores is lagging so far behind in the world rankings.

The Sports Authority of India should take a serious note of this. The SAI should provide more

coaching to the junior players and sincerely try to motivate them. The foreign coach should be removed immediately. The huge money that the premier clubs spend on the players should be minimised.

In the major tournaments, the money should be given to the team which wins on match-to-match basis, with no money being doled out to the losers. The players should remember that they are representing their motherland. It is expected that they will give it their all.

ANIRBAN KUMAR GAYEN Hooghiy

Incredible!

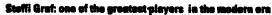
MOTHER Germany can take pride in many of her great laughters, and Steffi Graf is the nost distinguished among them.

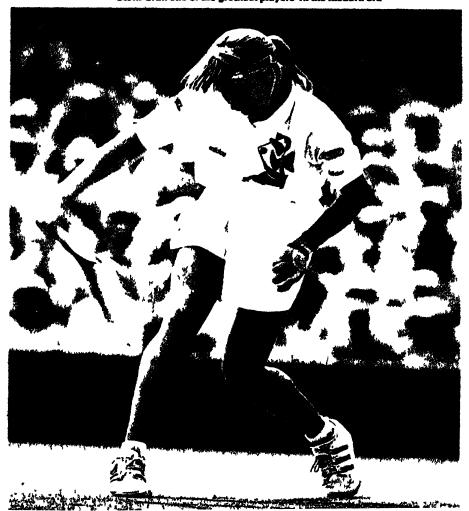
Steffi has had numerous high points in her glittering career. The has already bagged 21 Grand Slams titles. This is an incredible achievement

What makes Steffi so special is ter ability to thrive in adversity. The produced her magical power ennis to stymie the gusty challenge of the 'pocket dynamo' Arantxa at Wimbledon.

In spite of all the hindrances in her private life, she never gave up and became frustrated. Instead, he concentrated even more on ennis. This amply proved that he can overcome all the odds of ife through determination, enacity and, above all, superbitness. We hope that in the oming years this 26-year-old Jerman celebrity will continue her glorious run.

DEBASHISH DASGUPTA, Dist Bankura(WB)





AMILESTONE

The year 1996 achieved its first century in One-day Internationals history. Since the inception of one-day cricket in 1971, more than 100 matches have been played particularly this year—thus surpassing the previous record of 97 matches, played in 1994.

The first match in 1996 was played on January 1 (Monday) between Australia and the West Indies at Sydney. Australia won the match by one wicket. Interestingly, the 100th match this year thus far was also played on a Monday (October 21) between India and Australia in Bangalore. And to be statistically more precise, out of the 100 matches so far this year, only one tie was abandoned; between India and England at The Oval on May 24 (Friday). Thirty-seven matches were played in the Wills World Cup in which a record twelve nations participated.

THE GROWTH OF ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

Year	Matches played	Abandoned	Tied	
1971	1	0		
1972	3	0		
1973	5	. 1		
1974	6	0		
1975	19	2		
1976	6	0		
1977	6	0		
1978	10	0		
1979	26	1		
1980	21	0		
1981	28	1		
1982	33	1		
1983	66	2		
1984	51	4	1	
1985	67	3		
1986	60	3		
1987	74	0		
1988	61	0		
1989	55	1	1	
1990	61	2		
1991	39	0	2	
1992	89	4	1	
1993	82	3	2	
1994	97	2	1	
1995	60	0	1	
1996	100	1		
(Up to Oct. 21,	1996)			
26 Years	1126	31	9	



TEST AND ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS: In the last 26 Years

Span	Test matches	One-day matches
1971 - 1980	217	103
1981 - 1990	267	556
1991 - 1996	175	467
(Oct. 21)		
	659	1126



India, captained by Sachin Tendulkar, (above) played their 100th one-day international of 1996 against Australia in Bangalore





Sanath Jayasuriya set one of many world records this year

Test matches break-up

	Matches	Won Lost	Drawn	Tied
From 1877 to 1970 (93 Years)	675	433	241	1
From 1971 to 1996 (26 Years)	659	381	277	1
	1334	814	518	2

[★] In the first decade (1971 to 1980) an average of less than nine one-day matches were played per year But in the second decade (1981 to 1990) the number increased to over 46 matches per year and from 1991 onwards the average went up to almost 78 matches per year

Compiled by Hari Prasad Chattopadhyay

The most number of matches of course were played only in 1996 and it is expected to reach the 150 mark. A statistical presentation of the matches thus far

THE NUMBERS GAME

Attention, all you batsmen! There is a new phenomenon in one-day cricket today. Watch out for the fourth and fifth ball in an over. These are the deliveries in which a batsman is most likely to lose a wicket. The stats prove it's true. In fact, it also happened during the Wills World Cup. This novel discovery has been made by bureaucrat and sports freak ASHOK BHATTACHARYA



In the Singer Cup '96, the phenomenon can be ascertained from the table below:

	Match	Innings	Overs	Ball	Batsman	Bowler	Dismissal	Score
1,	India vs Sri Lanka	India	17th	5th	Saurav Ganguly (16) 41 balls	Dharmasena	Caught by D'Silva	57/1
2.	Do	Do	49th	5th	Sachin Tendulkar 110 (138 balls)	Jayasurya	run.out	217/4
3.	•	Sri Lanka	22nd	4th	Kaluwitharana	Tendulkar	bowled	129/0
4.	Sri Lanka vs Australia final	Sri Lanka	5th	5th	Jayasurya	McGrath	caught by Law	42/1
5.	Do	Australia	9th	4th	Ponting	Vaas	caught by Javasurva	48/3

In the Sahara Cup at Toronto, the 4th/5th ball dismissal of the batsman were also follows:

	Match 3rd Match	Innings	Overs	Ball	Batsman	Bowler	Dismissel	Score
1.	India vs Pakistan		1					
	on 18.9.96	India	46th	5th	Jadeja	Akram	bowled	178/6
2.	Do	Do		5th	Sreenath	Akram	c Saqlain	-
3.	Do	Do	49th	5th		Saqlain	c Mustaq	-
4.	India vs Pak on 21.9.96	India	9th	5th	Dravid	Saqlain	c Moin Khan	41/3
5.	India vs Pak	India	13th	5th	Azhar	Saglain	c Elahi	58/4
6.	Do	Do	38th	4th	Sreenath	Waqar	C	160/9
	Final					-		,
1.	India vs Pak on 23.9.96	Pak	12th	4th	Saeed Anwar	Kapoor	c Dravid	44/1
2.	Do	Do	31st	4th	Amir Sohail	Kumble	c Jadeja	108/4
3.	Do	Do	38th	4th		Kapoor	c Prasad	135/5
6.	Do	India	16th	4th	Tendulkar		run out by S. Malik	46/1
7.		India	22nd	4th	Jad e ja	Mustaq	bowled	62/2
8.	Do	India	26th	4th	Azhar	Mustaq	c Inzamam	70/4
9.			41st	5th	Kapoor	Mustaq	c Ijaj	127/8
10.			46th	4th	Prasad	Saglain	c Saeed	161/10

^{*} This piece of statistics has been unearthed after watching India's matches live telecast during the Wills World Cup '96 in course of the game. The phenomenon can be attributed to the following factors:

This is not astrology or mysticism, it is sheer statistics of the game. Cricket managers of the world should give a serious thought to this new issue unearthed in one-day cricket as a matter of strategy before such vital international tournaments are held in the world in future.

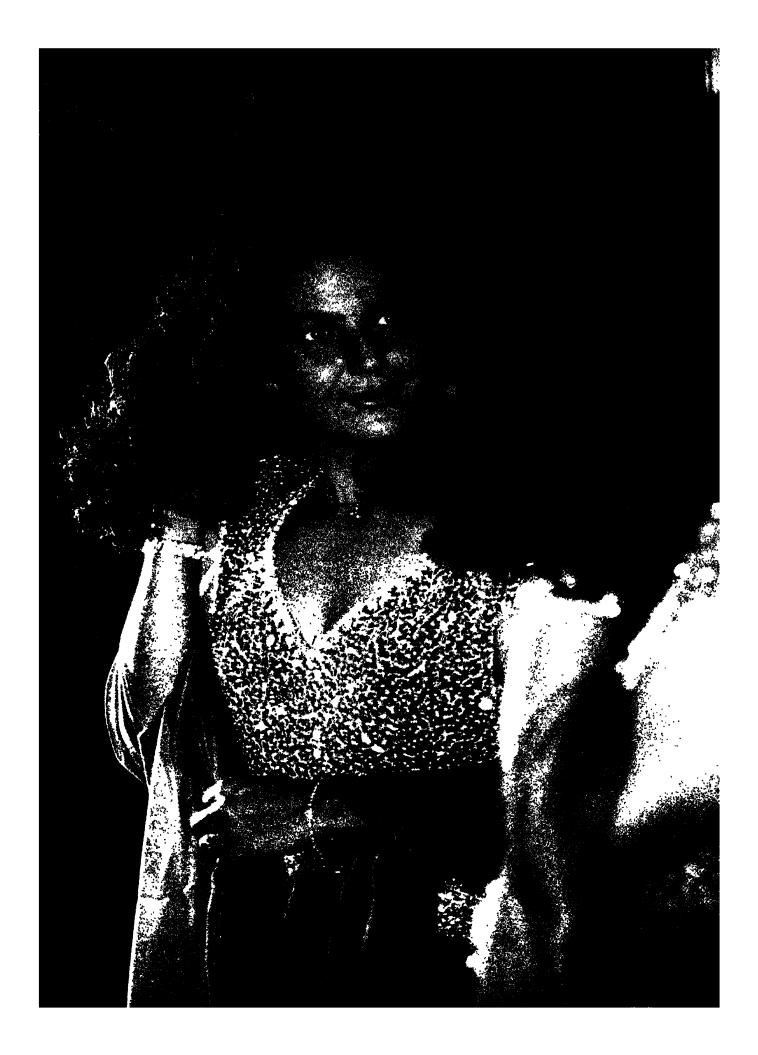
4th/5th ball dismissal in Wills World Cup final '96 between Sri Lanka vs Australia

	Match	Innings	Overs	Ball	Betamen	Bowler	Dismissel	Score
1.	Sri Lanka vs Australia on 17,3.96	Australia	30th	4th	Ponting	A. D'Silva	bowled [*]	152/3
2.			31st	. 5th	Warne	Murlitharan	St. Kaluwitharana	156/4
. 3.	•	Sri Lanka	2nd	4th	Jayasurya	Flemming	run out	12/1

⁽i) There is an element of bowler and batsman psychology which has given rise to this factor.

⁽a) It was noticed that world class bowlers deliver the first three balls of the over trying to keep the ball in length and line and ties down the batsman at crease while he watches the batsman very carefully regarding the stroke the batsmen plays on his follow through. He hurls the ball in 4th/5th deliveries for capturing the wicket.

⁽b) From the batsman point of view, he flaps the first three balls with caution. Normall, he has the tendency to hit/go for run in the 4th/5th ball where he intends to play defensive in the last delivery so that he goes to the other end at the end of the over. Hence the chances of a batsman's dismissal which the batsmen commits in the 4th/5th ball.



AND GUTS!

On court, ARANTXA SANCHEZ VICARIO is one of the most gutsiest players. Off court, she's one of the warmest and most endearing tennis pros

INTERVIEWED BY PAUL FEIN

While overshadowed by superstars Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario has nonetheless produced plenty of memorable matches and tennis history herself

She's beaten Graf eight times and twice in Grand Slam finals and engaged her in two of the most spectacular women's finals ever, at the 1995 Wimbledon Championships and the 96 French Open She's sparked Spain to four Fed Cup titles and two finals in the past six years And in 1995 versatile Sanchez Vicario became the first player to hold simultaneously the No 1 ranking in singles and doubles since Martina Navratilova eight years earlier

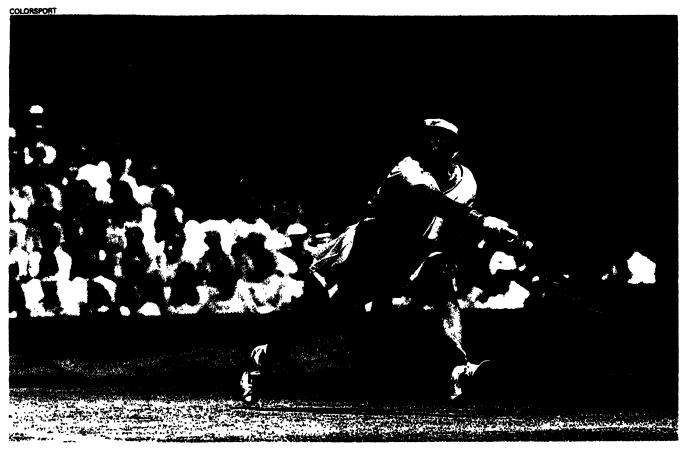
This former whiz kid—she turned pro at 13 and won the 1989 French Open at a then record—youngest 17 years, six months—never burned out or even became jaded. On the court Sanchez Vicario remains a ferocious competitor whose only brush with controversy comes from her penchant for questioning line calls. Off it, she's as relentlessly upbeat and ebullient as ever

In this interview The Happy Warrior eagerly discusses her outstanding career and her personal life because she says "it's important that people should know the kind of person you are, too"

You have won the U.S. Open and

The beauty and the beast. Off court Sanchez is a picture of prietine beauty (left), while on court she's a untamed aggressor PROFESSIONAL SPORT





French Open singles titles, nearly every doubles title and have been ranked No.1 in singles and doubles. What are your remaining goals in tennis?

I'm very proud of what I've accomplished. It's a very good feeling. I was the first Spanish woman to become No.1 in the world in singles and doubles, and I've been No.2 (in singles) for a long time. Definitely the next Grand Slam I'd like to win is Wimbledon. I've gotten to the final two times in a row, so probably I'll be lucky the third time.

How do you think your excellent rivalry with Steffi Graf compares with Monica Seles's rivalry with Graf?

It's different. We all three play different games. In the last few Grand Slam tournaments when I've reached the final, our rivalry has been just as good as the rivalry between Steffi and Monica.

You've played against the four

Pulling off the impossible. Sanchez is the best retriever in women's tennis

greatest players of the Open Era: Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Monica Seles. In what order do you rate them? When I played Martina and Chris, I was much younger. The toughest matches I've had lately have been against Steffi. You can say that Chris and Martina were the best players when I started. But now I'd say Steffi is better than Monica.

Although you are only 24, this is your 11th year on the pro tour. How has the tour changed since you started playing?

It has changed a lot. Tournaments are bigger and bigger. The crowds are bigger. The tour has more depth and competition because the players have improved a lot. They are hitting much harder. You have to work really hard to win because no one gives you anything for free.

The Coral WTA Tour wants players to play more tournaments—at least 18 per year—while Gabriela Sabatini recommends that women's tennis should create a three month off-season like any other sport. Who is right?

Some of us play a lot and have a very tight schedule. So it would be nice to have more off-season time, that's for sure. But also more the players play, the better it is going to be for the game. The top players should play more tournaments than they do. I'm probably the only top player who plays in so many tournaments and plays doubles all the time. The players definitely have to support the Tour and the fans want to see the top players play each other more often. For example, Steffi and Monica played each other only once this year.

In her autobiography Seles wrote: "Top 10 players have no friends at their level on the tour. It isn't done, because it's not smart

tennis." Do you agree?

It's definitely hard to have friends when you're on the tour because there is a lot of rivalry going on. But everybody has friends off the court. I definitely cannot be best friends with Monica or Steffi. That will never happen because we're so competitive.

Seles also wrote that she cried tears of happiness and appreciation when fans at Flushing Meadow cheered her at the 1993 Arthur Ashe Day. She noted: "Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was the only female player who actually came up to my box and sat down to talk. I really appreciated her kindness." Please tell me about what you did and your feelings toward Monica Seles.

If I were in her position, I would like to have someone go and talk to me at that moment. And it's nice that she said that. That shows how human she

is and how human I am.

Do you have a fan club?

I have a fan club in Barcelona. It has a lot of members. If people want to write to me, they should send letters to the Spanish Tennis Federation Avda. Diagonal 618-3D, 08021 Barcelona, Spain.

Although you did not win your '95 Wimbledon final against Graf it must have been the greatest match you have ever played. What do you remember most about that thrilling 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 match?

It was an unbelievable match. I was maybe a little unlucky, and one point changed everything. We played the longest game in (Wimbledon history) in that third set. Whoever won that

Riding high! Sanchez is one the most prolific doubles players, and here she partnered Jana Novetna to a win at Wimbledon

game had the best chance to win that match. That was the best chance I ever had of winning Wimbledon. In one way it was the most disappointing loss I ever had. But, in another way, it wasn't because I feel like I almost won. No one expected me to get to the final, and I almost beat the No.1 player

During your '96 Wimbledon final against Graf, Billie Jean King commented: "Arantxa chickens out and she needs to be aggressive. If I were her, in the early rounds, I'd be going to the net more, everytime I get a short ball. Because she's a tremendous volleyer and she's so quick. She's not using her strengths. Her not coming into the net when she had the chance was the difference between winning and losing last year's Wimbledon final and this year's French final against Graf. It's heartbreaking." Is Billie Jean right?





They take the best out of each other. Graf and Sanchez after that memorable and opic final at Wimbledon '95

She is kind of right. But it was so close. Only one ball (point) made the difference. I'm going to the net more often in other matches, and that definitely proves that I can do it. Definitely it's good advise to do that against Steffi.

Many people believed that Seles didn't deserve the co-No.1 ranking that she was given after being absent from the tour for 27 months. You were the biggest loser because the co-No.1 ranking dropped you to No.3 in the seedings which forced you to beat both Graf and Seles to win tournaments. Did you resent the WTA's decision?

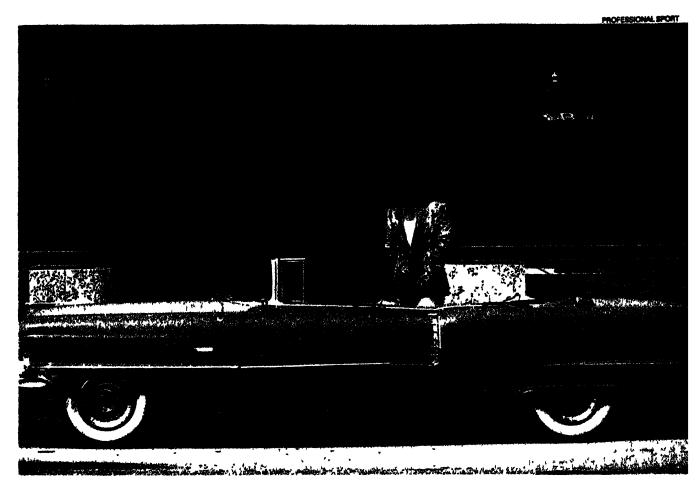
Everything is done and past, and there is nothing I can do now. We don't have to talk any more about that. But definitely I was the one that was hurt the most.

The German press has been exceedingly critical towards
Steffi and her father. How has the Spanish media treated you?
I've have been very happy because they have treated me well so far.
Every time I need to talk to them, I do. They know how much I've done for tennis in Spain for women and how good a champion I am.

You captured Spain's first-ever title in women's singles at the Atlanta Olympics. Please tell me about your performance there.

I beat Jana Novotna (6-4, 1-6, 6-3) after she beat Monica Seles and then Kimoko Date (4-6,6-3, 10-8) in tough matches. I gave my best in the final, but Lindsay Davenport was better on that day. I was very proud to represent Spain at my third Olympics and go to the podium for the silver medal and the bronze in doubles. Playing for your country in the Olympics is something special for any athlete.

Did you meet any famous athletes in the Olympics Village?



I was very pleased to meet Carl Lewis when he watched one of my matches. We had a good conversation. He signed something for me and I signed something for him. I congratulated him for his gold medal, and he congratulated me on the way I played and told me he was a big fan of mine. I'm a big fan of him too. It was very nice.

Is tennis the biggest sport in Spain now?

Soccer probably has been the biggest sport. But since I've been winning so much and we've won the Federation Cup so much and the Spanish men are also doing well, tennis has probably become as big as soccer now. People are watching more and more, and they always want to see how I'm doing. So that's why it's getting more popular in Spain.

The age eligibility rules were created to prevent the premature burnout that ruined the brilliant

She's got it all. Sanchez is rich, famous and enjoys life to the fyllest

careers of Tracy Austin and Andrea Jaegar and damaged Jennifer Capriati's. You turned pro at 13, and you not only did not burn out, you are happy and well adjusted. What is the secret of your happiness?

(Laughs) I enjoy playing. I'm doing what I like to do. I'm having fun, plus I'm doing great. I also do other things off the court. There is no reason not to be happy. I'm rich, I'm famous, and I'm winning. I have everything.

What are your favourite hobbies? I like playing other sports too. I play soccer and go water skiing and jet skiing. I like music and going to the cinema, spending time with my

I read that you are an art lover. Who are your favourite artists?

friends, and following other sports.

Picasso and Dali. They are very interesting people, and their paintings are great. They are geniuses. Picasso is the greatest painter of the 20th century. His paintings have more styles and dimensions and mysteries

Of the up-and-coming players on the tour, who impresses you the most and why?

Martina Hingis is doing very well at a young age. Also Lindsay Davenport and Iva Majoli. Results are what counts and Venus Williams hasn't done too much yet.

Please tell me about your charity work for Children's Cancer Reseach in Spain.

I got involved because I like children. When they asked me, I was very proud to help them as a celebrity chairperson. I like to spend time with children. It's very good for their morale, better than anything. I also give them donations. We did a big event in Spain, and all the money



went for hospital experiments and medical research to help the kids

I recently read and enjoyed your new instruction book, The Young Tennis Player. Why did you write it?

I wrote it because it will improve them if they know the experience of a proplayer I had a good time writing it, and the kids will enjoy it. In the book I wrote that it is very important to be fair and honest at all times. It's really true I always say it, and that's why I wrote it.

You are a very determined competitor who fights for your rights on the court. Pam Shriver once said: "Arantxa loves to intimidate, and her aura can be scary." Is that true?

(Laughs) The more fans in the crowd,

the better it is for me I don t get scared with that, it helps me play better
Maybe that's what she meant I also give my best effort and fight hard and that intensity might scare opponents too

In her autobiography Evonne
Goolagong said, "I found the
pressure of the one-set,
sudden-death format in World
Team Tennis helped my
concentration enormously, and
was a contributing factor in the
all-round improvement of my
game in the mid-Seventies." Do
you agree with Goolagong?
I can't say as definitely as Goolagong
because I've only played three days in
Team Tennis I couldn't play more
because my schedule was so busy I
had a lot of fun It's important to start

Always bubbly! Eleven years on the pro-circuit and she's the treshest face on the WTA tour

well because you only play one set It was a great experience for me, and I had a lot of fun with my team, the New York OTBzz I was rooting for them, and they were rooting for me I felt sad that I had to leave after just three days

What else did you like about Team Tennis?

The atmosphere is great because you are playing in your hometown with so many people rooting for you. They are so much into the game. The format is so different and fun. You play only one set, you have sudden-death in every game instead of deuce, you have to play the service let, and you can decide what match you want to play first, the women's doubles or the men's singles or whatever. It's entertaining

Do you think the service should be abolished in the Coral WTA tour?

No It s better the way it is now on the tour

Do you have any fantasies in life that you wish would come true?

One of my dreams was to become the No 1 I already did that I m happy with my private life also because it's so good at the moment Another dream is to have a family to be a mother and have kids. My fantasy is to meet Kevin Costner. He's the actor I like most in the movies. He's sexy, he's a good actor, and he looks like he's got a good personality.

The gossip is that you do not always get along with your doubles partner Jana Novotna with whom you've won titles at Wimbledon, the U.S Open, the French Open, Lipton and the WTA Tour Championships. Will you continue playing with her or switch to Chanda Rubin, your partner when you won the Australian Open this year? (Pause) Well, we have played together

Patriot Games! Representing Spain has always been a priority for Sanchez and here she's on her way to the silver at the '95 Olympics

for three years, and I'm committed to play with Jana till the end of this year. I just have to talk with her and decide then about next year. With Chanda I've only played the Australian Open and the Amelia Island, and we won both the tournaments. But then she hurt her wrist, and she wasn't able to play. Jana and I are getting on well at the moment. You need to have good communication and friendship to play good team doubles. It also depends on our tournament schedules. Sometimes our schedules are not the same, so we can't play together.

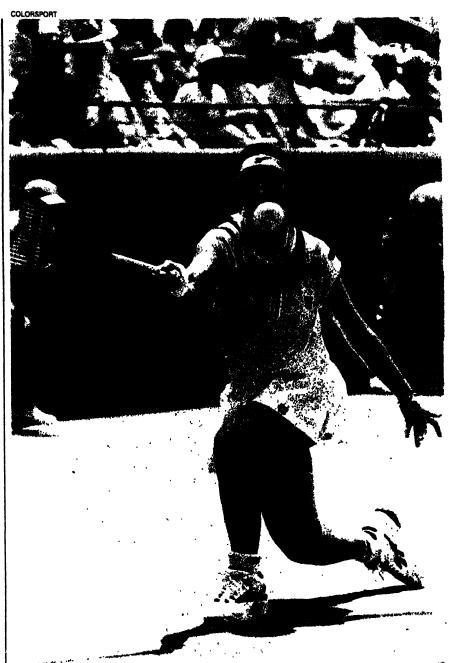
Even though you've learned five or six languages, you once. admitted that being a top touring pro forced you to miss many things such as studying, a career, and relationships. Specifically what do you miss the most that you were not able to do?

What I missed most was my childhood. I couldn't live it as much as other kids. And it's something you can never recover and do again. Another thing is my home life. You are always away, so much travelling, so I never had any home life as other girls of my age. That's what I had to sacrifice if I wanted to be at the top where I am now. But the compensation is that I do what I want to do. I enjoy myself. I also missed being with my friends and being as much as I wanted to with my boyfriend. You can find some time to do it, but you have less time than the normal person.

What is your boyfriend's name? His name is Juan Vehils, and he's from Barcelona.

Tennis fans like to know about your personal life and your love life.

Yes, people know me as a tennis player than as a human being. Now they can know me more as a person. It's important that people should



know the kind of person you are too, because life is not only tennis.

What does Juan like most about you?

He likes my personality, my sense of humour. (Laughs) But I'm still the same person I was when he met me even before I was the No.2 player in the world, even No.1. We've known each other for a long time. Even before I had great success, winning lots of tournaments, I was already with him. He likes me as a person, not just watching me play tennis.

Are your excellent results in the past three years related to your serious relationship with him?

It's important to have a life besides tennis. I can combine both. It's important to have the right balance in your life, and I know how to control it I was happy before Juan and I were going seriously together, but now I'm happier. If you're happy it's easier for you to handle adversity and keep going. Before I didn't want to talk about my private life. But the last three years have been great. What more can I ask for!

SUCKER PUNCH!

MIKE TYSON fights opponents way below his class. The public are taken for a ride while the boxers laugh all the way to the bank

BY SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

Some people love it. Those who love it have their own reasons for spending their time and money on a sport that is not only brutal but almost barbaric at times. I don't understand those reasons, except that they want to see the triumph of a man whose muscles and reflexes are stronger, swifter than those of his opponents. They want to celebrate the pre-eminence of muscular might.

I am sure that lovers of boxing would argue that there is much more to boxing than this simple summary. But what they would never be able to deny is that deep down they all want to see the mightiest to prevail over all else That's what they want to see in our modern times: a repetition of the old, medieval gladiatorial contests that determined who was the strongest among the strong.

There is nothing wrong with it. Life itself is one huge gladiatorial arena, where we are winning and losing all the time. We don't mind it, as long as the contest is fair. In fact, we enjoy it when the contestants deserve each other. What makes life frustrating is the conspiracy to stage an uneven contest to suit someone's self-interest. This is deceit.

That is exactly what Mike Tyson and his promoter Don King had been perpetrating upon the boxing

fraternity for quite some time. If boxing does provide a microcosm of life's relentless search for the better, for the best, through competition, then it better be a fair competition. Then only can we agree with its basic principles, its hero-worship, and ignore the blood that it often spills.

But that is not exactly what had been happening in the boxing bouts promoted by Don King and contested by his client and ex-convict. Of late, Mike Tyson had been fighting people who never wanted to win. All they wanted was the money. Just as Don King and Mike Tyson did. A whole crowd of boxers now seem eager to get into the ring with this fearsome man, Mike Tyson. No longer do they fear his bone-crushing blows, his swift, ruthless execution.

Because they know that there is no shame in being knocked out by a boxer like Tyson who needs only seconds to get rid of his opponents. But at the end of the day, there would be this hefty packet which would far outweigh the humiliation and pain. Money, after all, is a great healer, isn't it?

Just look at Bruce Seldon, for an example. He knew he would be beaten to a pulp by this huge exterminator, Mike Tyson. Yet, he was very interested to get into the ring with Tyson, because he knew that if he did not mind being branded a coward and got out of the ring as soon as he entered, this would be the quickest way to glory and a fortune.

So, he decided to share the ring with

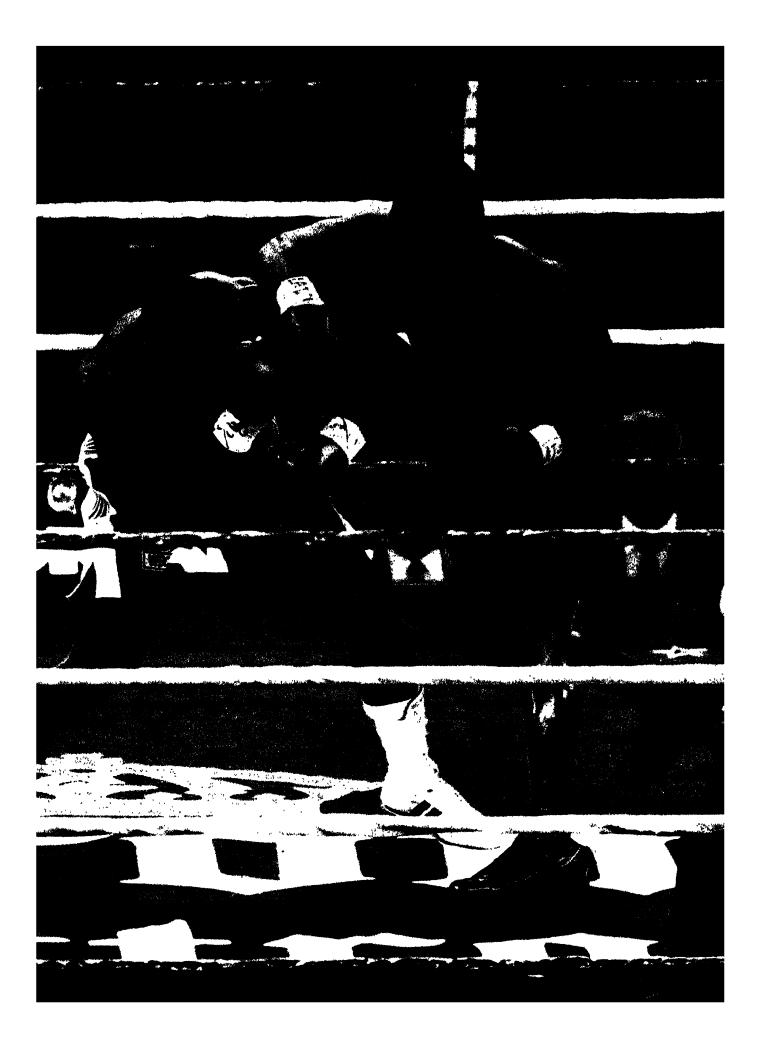
Tyson as briefly as he could—all of 109 seconds, to be precise—then donned the coward's cap and went back home millions of pounds richer than before. Who cares about cowardice if the money is right.

This has been the pattern in Mike Tyson's boxing life for some time now. A farce that is being repeated time and time again, in a frenzied rage to reap maximum rewards for minimum risks and effort. Mike Tyson and Don King are inviting the meek and weak to a quick execution; the meek and the lowly are accepting that invitation, because they know that this slaughter-house does not spill any blood, but pays handsomely just for being there for a brief, guided tour.

So, there is nothing wrong in it. This is a system that is run to make everybody happy. This is a system where everybody wins. In this system, Mike Tyson can avenge the 'American society's maltreatment of him' by amassing as much wealth as he can; his challengers can make millions as painlessly as possible; thousands of spectators can get rid of their ill-gotten money, paying as much as 1000 dollars for a seat around Mike Tyson's ring and watch him despatch his challengers off with amazing speed. Everyone wins.

Only boxing loses. Because all these 'exciting' bouts are hopeless mismatches. To the connoisseurs of boxing and those who believe in the

Mike Tyson landing a punch on Frank Brune during their one-sided fight earlier this year

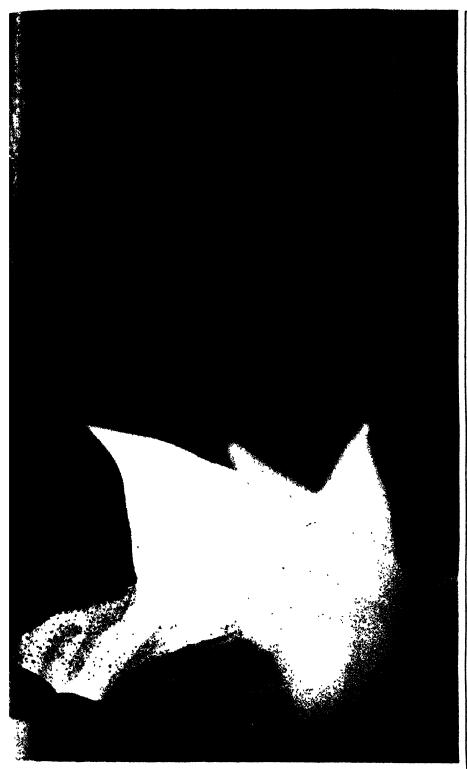




McNeeley. Even the fearful Frank Bruno. Both of them knew they did not have a chance in hell to put up

rejuvenated and angry Tyson. Tyson was angry because he thought his imprisonment on rape conviction robbed him of a big chunk of boxing time, when he could have done many more wonderful things, much more

bone-crushing than ever before. People like Frank Bruno had no illusions about the consequences of facing a menacing Mike. You cannot blame Bruno for being so hopelessly unnerved. But Bruno could not blame himself either for agreeing to fight,



especially after he got the good news that his embarrassment in the ring had been watched by 1.4 million households. Do you know how much money that means?

Mike Tyson's next show is likely to feature Evander Holyfield. Probably

in November. No boxing follower can have doubts about what shape he is in. Holyfield of today is nothing but a wispy shadow of his former self. Yet, he would probably fight, if the money is right. If he does, then I would recommend that his best bet would be

Mike Tyson: his credibility is being demaged by him fighting opponents of not the same standard

to closely copy Seldon's style: act well, go down on the mat, even when Tyson's punches did not connect, and then roll his eyes around their sockets to unnerve the referee that he might even die.

Holyfield would be relieved soon enough, I am sure. Then he can take the money and run. Evading Tyson's punches before taking the mat would be a better idea because if he tries to make his act more like real life, he would be taking a big risk. Because Mike Tyson has recovered his wrath. His prison sentence has made him angrier than ever before. Moreover, he has imposed upon himself a strict physical discipline which is unlikely to ease till the rage that has fuelled his violent quest for supremacy loses some of its heat.

And that fundamental point makes us wonder why Mike Tyson would need to stage these mismatches and ridicule himself, when he could easily have regained his lost glory in a very respectable manner.

Rumour has it that the man masterminding all this is Don King. Well, Don King's credentials for masterminding such money-spinning sham extravaganzas are indisputable; but should not Tyson have known better? Should not he have woken up from his blind rage for conquest and try to realise what he is doing to himself and his image?

Speculation, of course, is rife that Tyson is trying to part company with Don King; he had already sought legal help in finding out how he can do it without any bad blood or litigation. Don King, after all, is one of the most influential personalities in world boxing who can even influence the decisions of the sports' highest bodies. And he can generate a lot of money too, for a lot of ambitious boxers.

Mike Tyson himself has benefitted from that; there is no doubt about that. But is he still a good influence in Mike Tyson's life? Will history judge Mike Tyson kindly if his awe-inspiring career subsides in a quagmire of fake fights?

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THE QUEEN OF SYRIA

A Christian in a Muslim-majority country, Syria's GHADA SHOUAA did Asia proud when she won the Olympic heptathlon gold medal

HERE was elation in the
Asian section when Syria's
Ghada Shouaa scooped the
first ever Olympic gold for her
country in the gruelling heptathlon
with a score of 6780. The absence of
Jackie Joyner Kersee certainly helped
the Syrian, but her efficiency cannot
be underestimated on that score. She
had proved her mettle in the last
World Championship at Gotenborg
when she won the gold with an aggregate of 6651.

In the Olympics Day two for Shouaa began badly in the long jump. She could do only 6.26m, 49 cms below her personal best recorded in May this year.

The result; Belarussia's Naalaya Sazonovich moved to the top place after the sixth event. But a splendid showing in the shot put, with a distance of 55.70m put Shouaa back at the top.

She did not falter, aggregating 6780 points, way off Jackie's world record of 7,291, but good enough for the gold. She finished 217 points ahead of Sazanovich, who took the silver.

Ghada Shouaa, of Syria, hit the big time with the World Championship gold last year . She is in for a long reign at the top. A reign that will rival Jackie Joyner's at the top in women's heptathlon.

Ghada Shouaa is a contradiction in many terms. A Christian in a Muslim majority country, an athlete in a nonathletic tradition, with a Russian

A victory for Asian women. Ghada Shouaa of Syria raises her arms after she wins the Atlanta Olympic heptathlon gold coach, Kim Bukhantsev, who communicates with her in sign language, since neither can speak the other's tongue.

There have been successful Arabic women athletes in the past, albeit only in the recent past. But they have tended to succeed in single disciplines, for example Nawal El Moutawakil of Morocco, the first female gold medallist in an Islamic country, in the 400 metres hurdles in 1984. Or Hassiba

She is obviously the best thing to happen to the event since Joyner Kersee came on the scene. Even if she didn't top 7000 points at the Olympics, she is undoubtedly a contender for the world record

Boulmerka of Algeria in the 1500 metres, in 1992. But Shouaa is a woman for all seasons.

Following the withdrawal of the defending champion, Jackie Joyner-Kersee with injury after the opening event, there was little doubt that Shouaa would win the Olympic title, after her success in the World Championship last year. She underlined her intent by recording personal bests in the two opening disciplines, the high hurdles and shot put.

But then the weather turned bad, with heavy showers destroying, as she admitted, her hopes in the high jump. It was same on Day Two in the long jump. She said afterwards that she had hoped to beat Jackie Joyner in competition, and record 7,100 points. But she had to make do with 6,780, and a comfortable 217 point margin of victory over Natasha Sazanovich of Belarus.

Critics contended that Shouaa won, because Kersee was injured. But that won't wash this time. Kersee!is in the last gasp of her career, and you get the strong impression that Shouaa has barely drawn her athletic breath.

Although coaches have remarked on her poor technique in several of the events. But in the season this year, she had improved in five out of the seven events. She is obviously the best thing to happen to the event since Joyner Kersee came on the scene. Even if she did't top 7000 points at the Olympics she is undoubtedly a contender for the world record.

It will be interesting to see how much influence, if, any, Shouaa will have on athletics in her own country, and not simply among women. As double Olympic 1500 metres champion, Sebastian Coe said recently of Daley Thompson. "It's incredible how Daley could dominate the decathlon for a decade, and then Britain can't get anyone in the top 15 or 20 in the world."

It is often the case with smaller countries, which suddenly throw up a great performer. Shouaa, who comes from a family of six, from Maharde,



some 200 kilometres from Damascus was a national basketball player in 1989/90 until she was persuaded to start athletic training. She was second in the 1991 Asian Championship and 25th in her first Olympics in Barcelo na 1992. She won the Asian title again in 1993 and 1994. But she really broke through into the world class level in Gotziz 1995 prior to taking the world title later that summer.

Shouaa like woman marathon win

Shouaa, like woman marathon winner Fatima Roba of Ethiopia has underlined her emergence in the company of those who have succeeded in societies which either frown on, or simply, do not encourage sports for woman

On the victory stand (from left) Sazanovich, Belarus silver, Shouaa, Syria gold, Lewis, Britain bronze

ner Fatima Roba of Fthiopia has underlined her emergence in the company of those who have succeeded in societies which either frown on or simply do not encourge sports for women. She seems likely to continue to alternately embarrass and set an example for some time, to come

T S Venkataraman

READERS'

QUESTIONS

In 1939 a Test match was played over 11 days. Which were the two teams involved?

In Spanish soccer 2 . league what is Pichichi?

Which city is known as the Texas of European football?

Answer to Question No.5

Who was the first 4 Indian to be awarded the man-of-the-match award in a one day international?

"I am a very famous tennis player and I am also known as the Pride of Pampas. Who am I? "

" My parents emigrated to The Netherlands from erstwhile Czechoslovakia. I am coached by Australian Rohan Guetzke since October 1990. My girlfriend's name is Daphne Dekkers, a Dutch model. Who am I? "



Answer to Question No. 11

- You've heard of an ace in tennis. What is an ace in golf?
- In which Indian city would you find a 'concrete bat' 60 feet high erected in 1971 to mark India's victory over England?
- Who was the first Indian cricketer to score a triple century?

Who sponsors . the famous Dutch club Ajax Amsterdam?

Who holds the -, record for hitting the maximum number of sixes in Test cricket?







ANSWERS

- 1. South Africa and England.
- 2. It is a trophy given to the highest scoring player in a season.
- 3. Barcelona.
- 4. Faroukh Engineer.
- 5. Gabriela Sabatini.
- 6. Richard Krajicek.
- 7. To putt the ball in just one shot.
- 8. Indore.
- 9. Vijay Hazare.
- 10. ABN Amro Bank.
- 11. Navjot Singh Sidhu.

All answers sent in by contributor. Readers are requested to sent in atleast 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quizzes.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



SUDIPTO BASAK, B/222, R.P Hall, I.I.T KHARAGPUR, Medinipur, Pin: 721 302



KING WITHOUT AKINGDOM

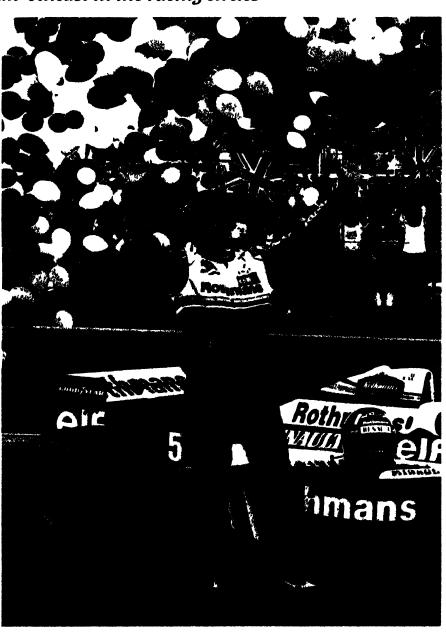
Britain's Damon Hill is the Formula One world champion. Yet, he finds himself being treated like an outcast in the racing circles

FROM SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL LONDON

HERE are many people who believe that if a man did not catch the big wave in his life when he was closest to it he was doomed never to do so again. They also believe that if you wanted to ride the big wave you must be absolutely sure of yourself and ready to grab your opportunities with firm hands when the wave begins to peak.

It is an instinctive thing a man a champion just knows where that place is and when Our protangonist Damon Hill knew that too He knew deep in his being that this was the place this was the time and with his rising strength he must have felt that familiar heat at the base of his spine that tingling sensation at the back of his neck as he set about to conquer this Japanese Grand Prix the one last hurdle to his ultimate glory

He felt the heat mounting up along his spine. This was the old excitement that accompanied him fuelled him burned him since those dreary days when he ran round this city of London as a despatch rider with a dream that often seemed so unreal so remote so impossible. Those were the days when Hill and his wife use to put in 50 pence coins into their electric meter to keep themselves warm in a basement flat in one obscure corner of I ondon, and dream dream dream. The atonement would have to come from Formula One racing.



championship. The best driver in this whole world. It all sounded like a fantasy. "But Damon would stick to it totally," as his wife would reminisce, "He was determined. He went to a driving school, slogged his guts out to get there. He started from nothing, but at no point in that time, did I doubt that he would do it. Damon is the most determined man you could meet."

That was Damon Hill then. This was Damon Hill now, the same man, with the same dream but in difference as he accelerated towards his ultimate prize. The world championship that threatened to elude him till the very last race of the season, testing his nerve, his self-belief.

But Damon Hill ignored the intimidation, all the odds facing him. "He just got his head down and went for it. It is a great lesson for everybody who is into knowing the lessons of life," as Frank Williams, the chief of the Williams team, would put it. There are far too many people in today's sport who do not even recognise the challenge to their self-belief.

Jacques Villeneuve, the man who could have snatched Hill's coveted title, all along been adamantly claiming that he never suffered a moment of self doubt in his whole life.

Difficult to believe, but that's the way it is. That's the way sports' glamour-boys have now created an environment of superhuman self-worship where their egos are colossal, god-like. Damon Hill had never been party to it; his rivals have. Yet he won, Villeneuve didn't.

For Hill, those lessons came the hard way. He lost his champion father, when he was a schoolboy. Graham Hill too won the world championship, and thus planted in Damon's mind the dream that drove him all his life. But Graham Hill died in a plane crash, and the sudden death and the lawsuits over the crash brought financial hardships that in the lives of lesser mortals would have left

Demon Hill finally put to rest all the criticisms about his lack of killer instinct and won the Drivers' Championship (left). In the end it was this concentration that eventually paid off (right)





Damon Hill is an intense family man who spents a lot of time with his family. His wife Georgie has always been the driving force in his life

little room for dreams.

But Mrs Hill and her son proved different. Mrs Hill financed Damon Hill's early training and by the Eighties, Hill was very much into competitive racing.

But Hill did not start with a flourish. Mediocrity seemed to cripple him for a considerable period of time. He persevered, but only as an average driver. And that accounted for the agonies, the anxieties, the sleepless nights that Hill was talking about when at long last, the ultimate honour was finally bestowed upon him at the end of a long grinding ride.

"At last, I have ended all the training and the preparations and the sleepless nights. My wife, Georgie, has had a lot of anxiety too," Hill said, "There has probably been as much

pressure on her as there has on me."

And wife Georgie: "All the sacrifices, everything we have been through is worth it now. He has done it with huge dignity and I am really proud of him.

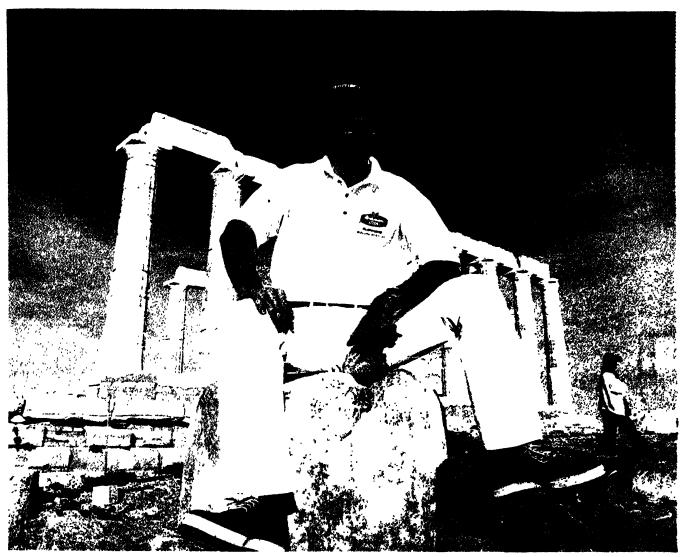
So, Damon Hill knew, all along, that he was human, he was fallible. vulnerable, unlike some of his more arrogant rivals who thought they were not. Damon Hill also knew that his success was not only his. And that is why in a grand and a most memorable gesture, Hill spent the last few laps of his last race talking to the Williams team, congratulating them, thanking them for all the help and effort they gave in making him The Champion. And don't forget it was this team that Damon Hill has been discarded from, prompting many to suggest that Hill's journey uphill has been a rather unpleasant and bitter experience.

Well, when we saw his team, his

mechanics jubilant throwing their caps in the air and hugging each other in unrestrained joy and responding to Hill's radio messages, it certainly was difficult to believe that any rancour remained.

And the acknowledgement to his gentlemanly gesture came from none other than Frank Williams himself: "He is a rare breed. A gentleman. When he came through the chicane for the last time he spent 30 seconds telling the team what a great job they had done, how grateful he was, how it was down to them. He said it has been a pleasure working with us all." The only bit of doubt that Williams had was about himself. "I don't know if he included me in that."

Sure he did. A man who has come through so much, to realise his dreams in just the way he wanted should not find it hard to be generous, magnanimous, forgiving. Especially now that he knows that for all his



The king of all he surveys. Damon Hill has proved that he can win.... and win in style when it matters most

human frailties—his worries, his moments of self-doubts, his failures, his persisting mediocrity—he won this world championship by 19 points with eight race wins, a tally bettered only by a racing god; Nigel Mansell, and his one-time nemesis Michael Schumacher, last year. And in case Frank Williams had any doubts, Hill said, "This was my leaving present to the Williams."

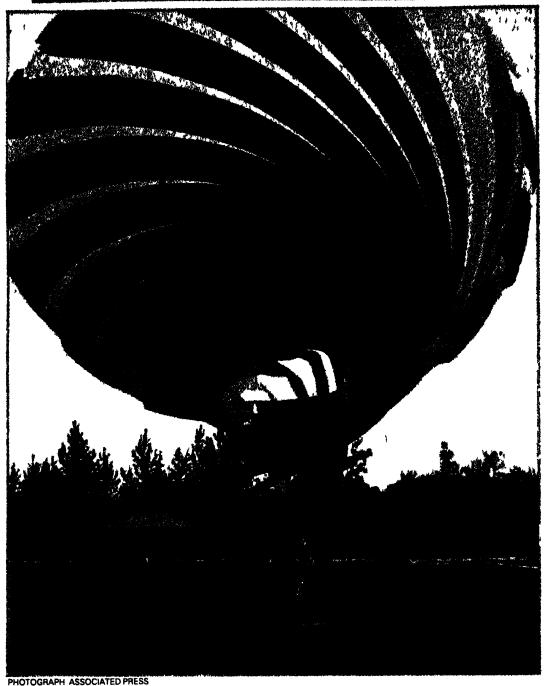
And it was an impeccable present, a flawless performance. Whatever his critics said he lacked, was evident in good measure. There was aggression, there was confidence, and, most importantly, a perfect strategy.

Every time he went into the pit, he came out ahead of Schumacher, almost inevitably. And this uncompromising quest for perfection began when Hill broke loose from his most frustrating shackles in his racing career. Suzuka, Japan, saw a most spectacular start by Damon Hill, while in contrast Jacques Villieneuve suffered a momentary lapse of concentration and was even stalled at the starting grid. Or was it a brief bout of self-doubt, which mocked the French-Canadian's extravagant claim of lifelong unwavering self-confidence?

From that moment on, the fate of this memorable race was settled. From that moment on, Hill did not have to look back again, or face any danger to his flawless race, except when Berger unwittingly dived inside him and committed suicide. While Hill was blissfully unaware of the imminent danger, Berger himself had to take evasive action, braking hard and clattering over the kerb. His front wing was immediately damaged, and his challenge was virtually over. So was Villeneuve's, his tyre bouncing past him in the 37th lap, saving him the disgrace of having to admit any of his own mistakes.

It was a mistake on the part of the Williams team who must have left some defect in Villeneuve's wheels allowing one of them to work itself loose. Hill, however, did not cut himself loose. It was Williams who discarded him, unceremoniously. On their part, it has proved to be a blunder.

PHUIOUF THE FORTNIGHT



If you thought that kite flying was a pastime followed in India and South East Asia, think again. We present evidence that it is as popular in the West as it is in this part of the world. This kite called the Monster was flown during the Big Kite Festival held recently at the Milken Park, Ontario, Canada. This unique contraption should serve as an inspiration to all kite fliers and kite designers in India



THE TRAGIC & THE TORTURED

She promised much. She delivered little. JENNIFER CAPRIATI is evidence of the toll that tennis and glamour can take on a player

BY PAUL FEIN

This wide and universal theatre Present more woeful pageants that the scene Wherein we play it

1985 tennis camp
evaluation in the Capriatis'
family scrapbook
ironically reads: "She has
potential and should be developed
wisely. Keep her tennis 'career' in
perspective. Keep it fun! Be careful

not to push her progress too quickly."

The Can't-Miss Kid was still playing for fun while making millions in endorsements when she reached the final of her first pro tournament in 1990. Magazine cover headlines like Sports Illustrated's "And She's Only 13!" and Newsweek's "The 8th Grade Wonder" heralded her greatness and made her the most hyped player of the Open Era.

Jennifer, a cute, bubbly teenager, so charmed the sporting public that women's tennis' guru Ted Tinling exclaimed, "Happiness has returned.

Mary Poppins tennis! The next 10 years are going to be terrific!" With youthful naivete, Jennifer said, "I learned that it will be fun if it's all like this."

The whiz kid had reaped millions in endorsements before she even played her first pro match at 13 and saw the first biography on herself published when she was just 15. The manner of Capriati's debut should have sent chills throughout the tennis industry.

At 13, Capriati was labelled a produgy, at 17 she was a burnout. She fell victim to the excessive pressures of the pro tennis tour



Caprieti has still not managed to exorcise the demons that lurk under her psyche and it will take some time before the wounds actually heal

It looked as if the future of tennis would belong to 13-year-olds who could produce a junior circuit resume and a pack of 8 x 10 colour glossies.

Though victories on the court fulfilled her image and the wishes of her backers, they did not offer a satisfactory answer to her own needs and wants. Capriati was no longer the delightfully innocent prodigy. It was a time when millions knew her, but Capriati was unsure of who she was. She seemed uncomfortable in the spotlight, less than enthusiastic about training and exhausted by a heavy tournament and exhibition schedule.

At the root of her problems was the destructive pressure directed towards her by her domineering father Stefano, who usually didn't know best. Daddy Dearest made fatuous remarks like "When the fruit is ripe, you eat it," to justify his pushing his daughter prematurely into pro tennis, and "Kids don't burn out, parents do," when he was criticised for exhausting her with flights to far-flung, but meaningless exhibitions which got him the big bucks. After an "exo" in Japan, she reportedly screamed at him: "What the hell do you know? You are destroying my career. You are destroying my life. I never want to see you again. I don't care if I ever play tennis again. Just get out of my life."

During her two-year exile from the game she once loved, she moved out of her parents' home, was cited for shoplifting, was arrested for possession of marijuana and went into a drug rehabilitation facility three times. After her most recent comeback, she made news for taking a swing at her boyfriend in anger and hitting a waitress instead.

Capriati's public fall from grace is reminiscent of another beloved performer, that of prima ballerina Gelsey Kirkland who ransacked a motel room in Washington, D.C. in 1980 in a cocaine-induced frenzy. As one of the most acclaimed dancer of any era, Kirkland's dazzling career



PHOTOGRAPHS PROFESSIONAL SPORT

was plagued by the dark side of fame. Her drug problems, thoughts of suicide, weight gains, injuries, and subsequent embarrassing performances marked the downward spiral of her career and eventually landed her in a psychiatric hospital. Her response to her predicament was sardonic. Even after a dismal comeback, she knew exactly where she stood with herself and with the public. "My attitude may have been incorrigible, but my name was bankable." Fame begets celebrity. And celebrity sells.

A few days after dancing Gisellein
New York City with long-time partner
Mikhail Baryshnikov, she had a
drug-related seizure in the cafeteria at
the Met and was again rushed to a
hospital. In her autobiography,
Dancing on My Grave, she wrote
about her relapse to drugs: "I had
returned to cocaine before leaving the
hospital. But another unspoken

dilemma was now in the air: would I die on the stage ?"

The continuous pressure and stress was a major part of her life and her art. Kirkland rationalised the downfall of so many professional dancers when she wrote: "The fate of the theatre had to be related in some way to a company mentality that was susceptible to drug abuse. The 'infantilisation' of dancers, their prolonged immaturity and dependency, made them especially vulnerable."

This vulnerability exists in the tennis world as well, and Jennifer cast herself to play the lead role at a hopelessly young age. Like Kirkland, Jennifer is highly susceptible to the rages of pressure and the brutal dark side of fame and celebrity —which are indeed more woeful pageants than the court on which she plays.

In the next issue: The Best And The Constant

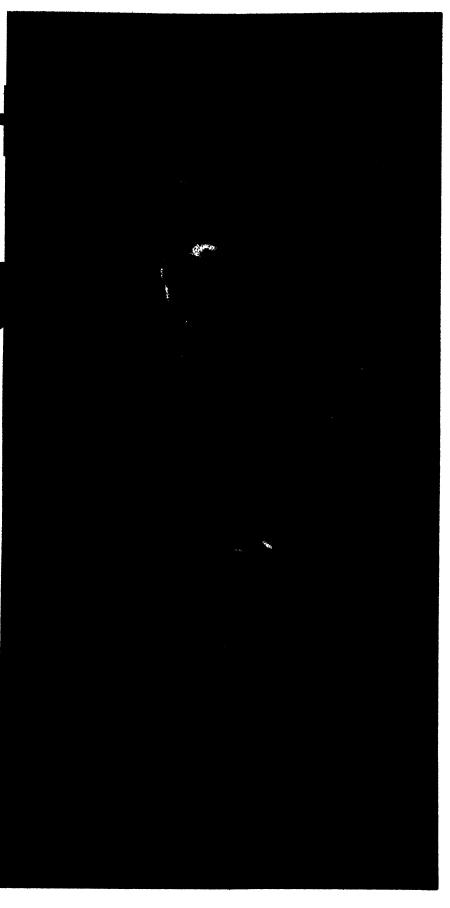
THE ARJUNA AWARD

MUCH ADO ABOU NOTH

Once regarded as the ultimate award for sporting excellence in India, the Arjuna Award is grossly devalued today. NOVY KAPADIA investigates

N 1961 when India's most prestigious sports award, the coveted Arjuna Award was introduced, the socio-political scenario in the country was one of unbridled idealism and hope. In such an atmosphere, the Arjuna Award became a deserving accolade for excellence. In the first year, 20 famous sportspersons (19 men and the lone sportswoman, hockey player Ann Lumsden) were presented the Arjuna Awards. The list includes several legends of Indian sports, the late Prithipal Singh, the penalty corner expert in hockey, Gurcharan Singh

The Arjuna Award statuette: causing more heartburn than pride



Randhawa, fifth in the 110 metres hurdles in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. the late Maharaja Karni Singh of Bikaner for shooting, Salim Durrani for cricket, P.K. Banerjee for football and twice Wimbledon semi-finalist Ramanathan Krishnan for tennis.

In the decade of the Sixties, this award remained a cherished and much sought after objective. Yusuf Khan the legendary, bearded utility footballer, who played total football (the poor man's Ruud Gullit) in the 1960s aptly summed up the craze for this award when he said, "When P.K. Banerjee got this great award in 1961, I was inspired to win it myself one day. All of us in the national team, hailed the Arjuna Award as a recognition of excellence. To be chosen I felt was an honour because we were the best in our game for that year."

Such was the idealism of the early recipients of the Arjuna Award. Yusuf Khan who got the Arjuna Award for excellence in 1966 (represented Asian All Stars) still cherishes the memories of receiving it from the erstwhile President of India, the late Dr Zakir

Hussain.

In contrast, ace hockey centre forward, Jagbir Singh was quite cynical when he received this coveted



failed to realise the significance of the Arjuna Award. He was given the award after playing for India in the Davis Cup for little over a year. (Left below) Even though Zeeshan Ali won the national championship six times, and played Davis Cup he was repeatedly ignored

remarked, "Yes I am honoured, but the cash prize (Rs.20,000) is nothing. What can you buy with this amount of money." Jagbir represents the other side of the Arjuna Award. The passing years has somehow deglamourised this prestigious award.

In the decade of the 1960s, there was no cash prize that came along with the award. The seven recipients of this award in 1996 (for excellence in 1995) were given a bronze statue of Arjuna, a scroll and cash prize of Rs. 50,000. But today the Arjuna Award stands devalued. There is no pride amongst the athletes for accepting what was once the ultimate accolade to their sporting skills.



Randhir Singh, secretary of the Arjuna Awardees Association, is doing a laudable job

AAA: Growing In Status

THE Arjuna Awardees
Association (AAA) has their office at the Nehru Stadium, Delhi and under the able guidance of secretary Randhir Singh and director Yashwant Singh are doing a laudable job. It is the former Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao in August 1995 announced that all Arjuna Awardees will get a railway pass, which enables them to travel free in either the first class or 2nd A.C. in all trains except the Rajdhani or Shatabdi.

Yashwant Singh, earlier associated with cycle polo, tennis and squash says, "this Rail Pass activated the AAA. Earlier we had no directory of addresses. Now we have contacted about 75 per cent of the Awardees. We have also requested the Railway Ministry to renew these Passes at regional centres, so that the Arjuna Awardees do not need to travel to Delhi for renewal of the same.

On February 27, 1996, Randhir Singh wrote a letter to the previous Minister for Civil Aviation, Ghulam Nabi Azad requesting for 50 per cent discount on air travel. Both Randhir and Yashwant Singh have pursued this matter with Rusi Modi, Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Airlines and the current Minister for Civil Aviation, C.M. Ibrahim.

Yashwant and Randhir are also trying to procure pension for all Arjuna Award winners. Kapil Dev had collected Rs.75 lakhs in 1994 for the Association and deposited it with the Union Ministry of Sports. The amount kept in a Fixed Deposit in the Account of the National Welfare Fund for sportspersons in the State Bank of India, is now worth Rs.93 lakhs. The department of Youth Affairs and Sports grants pensions to medal winners in the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympics and is now considering the request of the AAA.

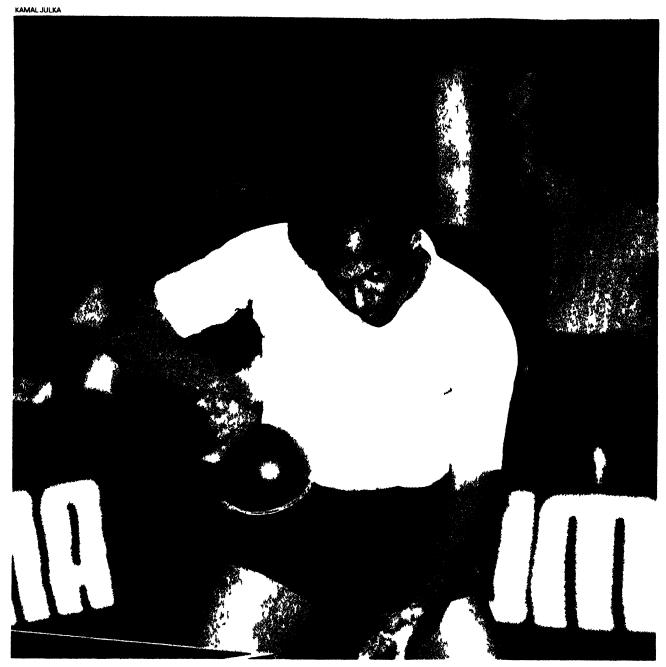
Randhir has also written to the Chief Ministers of the various States and Union Territories to ensure that Arjuna Awardees get out of turn allotment of flats or land in their respective state. He is also trying to involve the Awardees in regional coaching centres and as a "Think Tank" in contributing towards a sports policy in their respective states. Yashwant and Randhir have thus made the AAA a vibrant organisation. Sadly, inspite of their wholehearted efforts, there is one thing that they have not yet managed to do. Perhaps, it is not their fault because no one can blame them for lack of trying. But ask a sportsman who has served his country, and is now languishing in anonymity about the Arjuna Award. He will tell you that it has made no difference to his life.

Arbitrary selection of sportspersons is a major cause. Also there is often massive politicking in the selection of the sportspersons for this award. Again the criteria for selection was often quite flexible, so as to include representatives from many games. Typical of this age of subterfuge, intrigue and petty politicking, ambiguity, favouritism and nepotism has crept in, as regards selection of distinguished sportspersons. Former national table tennis champion and recent national coach Manjit Dua says, "unless you are close to the powers that matter in your national sports federation, it is very difficult to be selected."

The blue-eyed boy of Indian table tennis Sujoy Ghorpade, who has made more foreign trips than any of India's external affairs ministers in this decade, was recommended four times for the Arjuna Award by the Table Tennis Federation of India. On each occasion he was rejected by the Special Committee which selects the recipients for this Award. The Committee consists of the Union Minister for Sports, the Director-General and the Secretary-General of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), the president of the Arjuna Awardees Association of India, at present Bishen Singh Bedi, the Director Teams Wing of SAI and the Secretary for Sports in the Ministry of Human Resources and Development.

Manjit Dua's justifiable grouse is that this august committee should clarify why a person (such as Sujoy Ghorpade in table tennis was rejected). He says, "the Sports Ministry should reply to the National Sports Federations why a person has been rejected and even suggest that the same name should not be repeated." Dua is upset that since 1990, no table tennis player has been considered for this Award, as the TTFI only recommends the name of Sujoy Ghorpade.

A similar imbroglio exists in football. During Mamata Banerjee's tenure as Minister of State for Sports, the Mohun Bagan and ex-international defender Subrata Bhattacharya was chosen for the Arjuna Award. Now, the abrasive Subrata is not very popular with the All India Football Federation. An



aggressive personality he had several disciplinary problems during his career. Several critics felt that he should have played many more times for India but for personality clashes with the high profile former national coach P.K. Banerjee. Certain AIFF officials felt such a controversial player should not be granted the most coveted Award of the country. It was branded as a political choice.

Now Mamata Banerjee used her discretion to give him the Award Subrata s best years were in the early 1980s In his case at the insistence of Sujoy Ghorpade had no godfather in the selection panel to back him up for the award inspite of his name being recommended four times!

the tenacious Mamata the Special Committee opted for the criteria of sportspersons who have made a life-time contribution to their discipline. Subrata s defensive skills were of the highest calibre. Also in this age of crass commercialism and decline of values, he remained a one-club man, throughout his playing career, with Mohun Bagan from 1974 till he retired in the early 1990s. Also there was a precedent for rewarding

players for life time contribution to the game. Pint sized international Mohammed Habib was at his peak in the 1970s but got the Arjuna Award for the year 1980-81. Also brilliant right back Sudhir Karmakar was chosen best defender of Asia in 1970 but got the Arjuna Award for 1981. So the choice of Subrata for the Arjuna Award is justifiable.

There are several criteria for selection of distinguished sportspersons for the Arjuna Award. It is considered as the highest national recognition for outstanding

performance by sportspersons during the year for which it is given and the preceeding three years or the scope has been enlarged to include players who have made a life-time contribution to their discipline. This is the official citation by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, of the Govt. of India which deals with the selection of the Arjuna Awardees and the official ceremony.

Whatever the merits of Mamata's choice, it did set a pattern for political awards. The AIFF has also gone haywire after that. Fissiporous tendencies in the AIFF get revealed as each year they recommend three or four ex-international footballers for the Arjuna Award. The faction from the west recommends goalkeeper Brahmanand, those from the North propose midfielder Parminder Singh, whilst from the East the names of either Shabbir Ali or Prasun Banerjee are put forth. In this welter of confusion, no football player has been



Hockey star Jagbir Singh was quite cynical when he received the coveted award for excellence

chosen for the Award for the last five years. It is instances such as these which has led to the Arjuna Award getting devalued, as the national sports federations indulge in their own petty politicking in recommendation of names.

It is learnt that Shabbir Ali who has played 110 international for India from 1974-1984 and was the captain when India last won a major international tournament (joint winners with Iran in the Asian Youth tournament in 1974) was on the verge of being nominated a couple of years ago. However, the AIFF added to the confusion by recommending several names and so the Special Committee just gave football a miss. Sadly Shabbir Ali and Parminder Singh (chosen player of the decade of the 1980s by the AIFF itself) may now never get this coveted Award, as the special Committee at present is giving greater insistence to current performances at the national or international level.

Inconsistency in selection is a major grouse by several nominees. In swimming for instance freestyle ace of the 1980s Sanjib Chakraborty was rejected whereas several women

Rules For Arjuna Awards

THESE rules (as modified up to December 1994) may be called "Rules for Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in sports & games."

(1) The object of these awards is to encourage the development of games and sports in the country.

(2) Entries will be invited every year from the National Sports Federations recognised by the Govt. of India by a date to be specified by it for awards in the respective sports & games.

(3)Ordinarily not more than one award will be made in each sport in a particular year subject to deserving persons being available. An exception could be made for a second award being given to a woman in a particular game.

(4) The awards will be made in respect of a calendar year and entries will be sent by the National Sports Federations by a date specified by the Govt. of India. Entries will be sent in a proforma giving the past performance of the persons recommended in the national & international contests generally and for the year of the award particular.

(5) The last date of entry may be relaxed at the discretion of the Govt. of India in exceptional cases.

(6) The Govt. of India will set up a special committee to scrutinize all the

entries received from the National Sports Pederations and make its recommendations to the Govt. of India.

(7) Notwithstanding the entries received from the National Sports Federations, the Govt. of India may, give Arjuna Awards to any sportsmen/women considered by it as outstanding for the year.

(8) The National Sports Federations would be asked to recommend more than one name and upto 3 names in a particular event to the Govt. of India. But Arjuna Award will ordinarily be given by the Govt. of India to not more than one sportsperson or two (in case one of the selected person is a woman) in a particular game or sport.

(§) To be eligible for the Arjuna Award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance consistently for the previous three years at the national/international level with excellence for the year for which the award is recommended but also should have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and sense of discipline. The Govt. of India will also consider giving awards to such sportspersons who have contributed their life time to sports and sports promotion.

(10) The decision of the Govt of India in respect of the award will be final.

(11) The Arjuna Award will consist of a Bronze Statuette, a Scroll of honour, a woollen blazer with silken tie and a cash award of Rs. 50,000 which will be presented to the winners at a function for the presention of awards to be held at a place and on a date to be determined by the Govt. of India.

(12) Canvassing in any form in respect of an entry will render that entry liable to be disqualified.

(13) No award will be made for a second time to the same person.

(14) The award may be given posthumously if such an occasion arises.

(15) The Govt. of India may cancel or annul the award to any person and thereupon the recipient shall be required to surrender the Statuette and the scroll of honour but it shall be competent for the Govt. of India to restore the award once the cancellation and annulment has been withdrawn.

(\$6) The decision of the Govt. of India in respect of interpretation of these rules shall be final and no appeal shall lie against them.

(17) A person who is recommended for the Arjuna Award shall be deemed to have accepted these Rules.

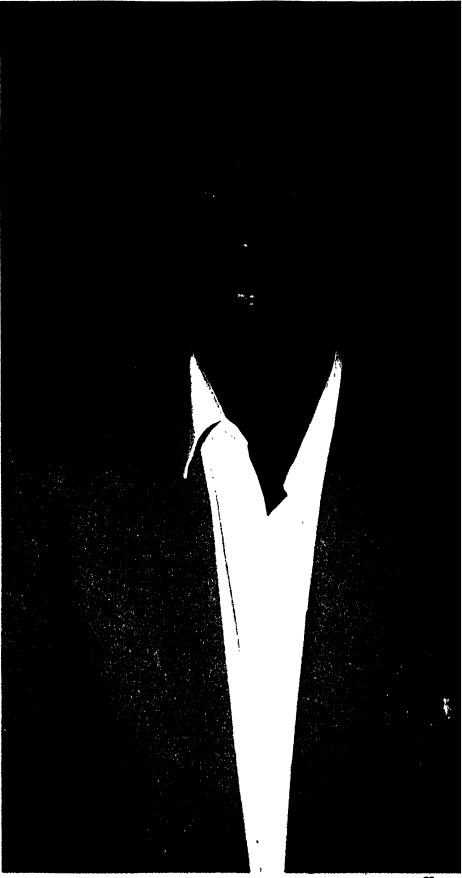
Shabbir Ali, who played 110 internationals and was the Indian captain of the joint-winning team with Iran in the Asian Youth tournament, has been bypassed for the Arjuna Award

swimmers with similar or lesser achievements were nominated for the Arjuna Award. There is unfortunately a lot of double speak and double standards in the selection of sportspersons for the Arjuna Awards in the recent past, which has led to a devaluation of the Award. Freestyle swimmer Sanjib Chakraborty has a distinguished record in both the nationals and international championships. He was the fastest swimmer in India and held the national record in the 100 metres freestyle from 1981-1987. He won gold medals in the nationals from 1981 to 1992. The general secretary of the Swimming Federation of India Virendra Nanavati recommended Sanjib's name for the Arjuna Award in April-May 1988 and in later years also. Yet strangely Sanjib was ignored, whereas Persis Madan who was nominated for the Award in 1982 did not have such a long winning sequence in the National championship.

In Sanjib's case it is learnt that insufficient international achievement was a deterrant. This is also not correct. In the 1980 1st Asian Championships at Dhaka, Sanjib got a silver medal in the 100 metres freestyle and another silver as a member of the 4x100 metres relay quartet. In the 9th Asian Games at Delhi, in 1982, Sanjib finished fourth in the 100 metres freestyle. Again Khazan Singh was recommended for the Award in 1984, that is two years before he bagged a silver medal in the 200 metres butterfly at the 1986 Seoul Asiad.

Also Sanjib's wife Bula Chowdhury was nominated for the Award for her excellence in the SAF Games, winning six gold medals at Colombo in 1991. However, in Sanjib's case this criteria was not applied even though he won 11 gold medals in the four SAF Games (1984, 1985, 1987 and 1991) that he participated in. Sanjib's performances in the Nationals were brilliant and he performed adequately in internationals yet he remains a victim of official apathy despite the support of his Federation.

In tennis we have the strange case of Mahesh Bhupathy who is unaware





of the significance of the Arjuna Award being nominated after competent performances for just one year in the Davis Cup and Nationals. However in contrast Zeeshan Ali, the national champion for six successive years was ignored. Zeeshan is also the youngest (he was just 16 years old) to win the Senior Nationals.

For once the much maligned R.K. Khanna, president of the All India Tennis Association is blameless. Khanna recommended Zeeshan Ali in both 1989 and 1991. Randhir Singh, secretary of the Arjuna Awardees

Karnam Malleswari receiving the Arjuna Award scroll this year from President Shankar Daval Sharma

Association sent a letter to Ministry of Sports on June 19th, 1996 recommending father Akhtar Ali for the Dronacharya Award and son Zeeshan Ali for the Arjuna Award. No reason has been cited as to why Zeeshan has been repeatedly ignored.

In hockey, brilliant defender, Rajender the only Indian to score a hat-trick against Pakistan (4th Champions Trophy at Amsterdam in 1982) and the top scorer in the 1981 Bombay World Cup with 12 goals has been ignored. Rajender is the only Olympian to successfully coach schoolboys (official coach of Union Academy, Delhi). So Rajender certainly fits into the criteria of a 'life time contribution to their sport'

Another ignored hockey star is the speedy right winger M.K. Kaushik of 1980 Olympics fame. After his playing days were over, Kaushik has remained an active coach. He was on the coaching panel for the men's team till 1990 and was later national coach of the women's team till 1994. An



irate Kaushik has rightly said, "international achievements should be the main criteria. Our hockey gold medal in 1980 cannot be equated with someone who has won national titles in ball badminton." Kaushik is also bitter about the monopoly of the National Sports Federations in recommendation of names and says it has led to favouritism.

The introduction of the accompanying cash prize in the 1970s is another bone of contention. Till the early 1980s it was just Rs.5,000. It was then raised to Rs.10,000 and by the

Ashwini Nachappa with the Arjuna Award.
The decision of the committee to give her the award received a lot of flak and a lot of athletes were sceptical about the whole affair 1990s it had become Rs 20 000. On

1990s it had become Rs.20,000. On July 22, 1993, erstwhile Minister of State for Sports, Mukul Wasnik increased the sum to Rs.50,000. The gesture of the cash prize is laudable but it has diluted the significance of the Arjuna Award. This coveted Award now tends to get evaluated in terms of the cash prize, which though substantial is not extraordinary in these days of inflation and crass

commercialism. The cash prize has also caused a certain bitterness.

Some earlier generation of the Arjuna Awardees are piqued that they received no cash prize. The efficient director of the Arjuna Awardees Association Mr Yashwant Singh and secretary Randhir Singh have written several letters to the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Human Resource Development requesting for a re-imbursement of the cash prize so that all the 427 winners of the Arjuna Award till now get the same amount of Rs.50,000.

THE SAVIOL



hetween England's predicament in soccer and cricket. In both these sports fate has thrown up for her a natural leader an able captain who unfortunately is surrounded by

mediocrity incompetence. The result needless to say is that the efforts of these heroic individuals have often been undermined by their own teammates.

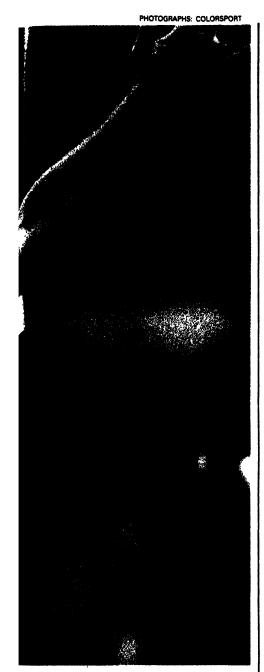
While this may be causing considerable anguish among

England's soccer and cricket fans what it cannot obscure is the sheer glory of being an Alan Shearer or a Mike Atherton And that is important. The rise of Shearer was the best

The rise of Shearer was the best answer to England's need of the hour It happened at a time when English

R

England's prolific scorer ALAN SHEARER is out to establish himself as Europe's most unforgiving and ruthless striker



A jubilant Alan Shearer after scoring a goal for Blackburn Rovers against Swindon Town in the FA Premiership

football's most flamboyant and successful star in recent times, Paul Gascoigne, was becoming more and more erratic, indifferent, and troublesome. This was the man England had been banking on for a long, long time, and for all his idiosyncracies, the controversies, Gascoigne too for a reasonably long spell, had been living up to his image as England's soccer messiah.

But not any more. And the latest indication of his declining powers, his aimless football, came when England met the Poles for the recent World Cup qualifier. England won the match, but it did not prove anything, least of all England's supremacy over another European side; instead, what it did show was that Paul Gascoigne may soon become more of a liability than an asset, and also that Alan Shearer was now going to be looked up to as the saviour of England.

This must be the greatest challenge Shearer has ever faced in his life. But, by all indications, he does not seem ready to let it overwhelm him. He has already provided enough evidence that he has taken the responsibilities of captaincy in a remarkably purposeful stride. Moreover, his performance against the Poles left little doubt that he indeed is in a belligerent mood.

And more importantly, his belligerence was not of the unrestrained kind. Rather, it was the controlled aggressiveness that made the first goal against the Poles so remarkable. And then of course, was the second goal, which bore the unmistakable hallmark of an unforgiving, ruthless striker, out to establish himself as Europe's best centre-forward.

If Shearer can achieve that title, it would definitely erase the uncomfortable memories of his Southampton days, when he was certainly not noted as a prolific scorer. In those days, Shearer used to defend himself, claiming that he was more a gamemaker than a scorer; he used to

say he could make a greater contribution 'serving the stars', rather than try to show off and prove his individual brilliance.

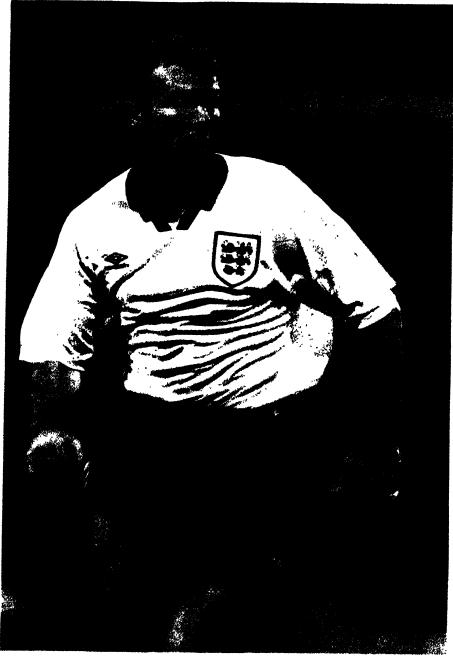
Most people took that with a pinch of salt, and you can't blame them for doing so, but the fact that Shearer was then merely in a state of metamorphosis soon became abundantly clear when his average rose to a goal a match, giving all the signs that a star was about to be born.

It took Shearer to think harder about his craft, his style, his attitude to further enhance his effectiveness as a forward and also add a streak of opportunism to his game to brighten his chances of success.

It began to work amid muffled criticism from various quarters that Shearer cared more about himself, his own game, his own brilliance, rather than the team. Shearer countered it with a sustained public relations exercise, claiming all the time that he never cared who scored the goals, that he was more a team-man than an individualistic performer.

But the essential Alan Shearer emerged more and more into the open as he began to devise his very own style of confusing his opposing goalkeepers. Explains Gary Lineker: "Alan is never going to be a natural near post poacher: He is a far post man, drifts there and gets above people using his tremendous jumping ability. He gives all that stuff about not caring who gets the goals, but it's absolute balderdash. You can't do what he does if you mean it."

There you are. This is the real Shearer, who had started out as a team-man, a gamemaker, but is now very decisively on his way to make his mark as a brilliant striker, aiming to take over the mantle of the European best from such unforgettable masters as Jurgen Klinsmann or Marco Van Basten.





That Shearer is about to prove himself as the most indispensible centre-forward was evident in the recent World Cup qualifier against Poland

And the most positive sign that Shearer does have the potential and ability to achieve that goal can be seen in his heroic struggle to come out of the 'lean spell' that threatened his top-class career in top-class football. "I'd had a lean spell prior to the hattrick against Poland in Mexico in 1986," Lineker would compare. "It was the same for Alan going into the attack. Those who can go on to do

better things. That is what happening to Alan now," Lincker would explain.

And as lar as his skills, technique and style are concerned, Lineker would point out almost all the essential qualities in Shearer that makes a great footballer, a great scorer. "He knows his game, uses his strength to hold the ball, give it, and go into dangerous areas. I'm glad to see he does not stray into wide positions quite as much, which has come from being with better players. At Blackburn, he was as close as you will

get to a one-man band."

But the trouble is that as long as England continues to regard Shearer as a one-man band, neither England nor Shearer is likely to prosper to their fullest potential. Glenn Hoddle, the manager, has already made that clear, complaining time and again about the 'lack of communal concentration' in the England team. Even at the moment of triumph Hoddle did not mince his words, and recognised the lack of team work plaguing his rather disoriented side: "We only wanted to



play when we had the ball, and there was no team effort to keep the initiative among us, to keep the ball, the control of the game in our camp." To make Shearer more successful, individually as well for the team's sake, England has got to close its ranks, and stop thinking of Alan Shearer as some sort of a Latin American soccer wizard, who can change the course of a match by his own magic.

For, there is no mistaking that Shearer is no Romario, no Maradona,

Alan Shearer being intercepted by Alexi Lalas of the USA in a friendly international

no Klinsmann or Van Basten, even though he thinks he has set out to be one of them. He will be lucky to earn the status of England's or Europe's best, but even to do that he would certainly need his team's help. His skills may be extraordinary, his accuracy remarkable. consistent. His desire for scoring overpowering. But he would need the Latin American flair, imagination, creativity to

become one of the soccer sorcerers, who are his idols.

Rather, Alan Shearer should take heart from the fact that soccer has many, many instances to show how far dedication can make ability stretch, and he should be proud of his own determination and resolve.

But at the end of the day, he would need his team behind him to realise his dream, whatever that dream may be. At the moment, he has arrived just where the big wave has begun to peak. Suprakash Ghoshal, London Jacahoding

HAVE always been a big fan of Stefan Edberg's. Ever since I was 12 or 13, I supported him in . 🗸 every match he played. At the 1992 U.S. Open, Edberg was the defending champion. In the fourth round he had a particularly tough five-set match. When he finally won, my mom grinned at me. "Aren't you relieved", she asked. I mumbled a yes. It was hardly audible. Because, for the first time since I had started enjoying my favourite sport, I was rooting for Edberg's opponent, a 20-year-old Dutch boy (he wasn't a man then) with a basketball cap and no expression on his face.

Four years have passed since then. Four years during which I have endured every possible humiliation. Oh, I have been the target of many a jest. At first for being the only Indian non tennis player to have heard of Krajicek (I could even spell his name correctly) and then, as the tournaments went by, for being so stubborn.

Boy, was I stubborn. First round at Wimbledon, second round at Flushing Meadows, first round at Wimbledon again: what was I doing?

Making slides of Krajicek, writing to every sports magazine for the address of his Fan Club (and no one could find it). I was nuts—surely!

Everywhere I turned, I saw a smirk. Parents, friends, even a sports journalist laughed when I told him who my favourite tennis player was. I tried to justify myself. I had seen him winning several gruelling five-set matches on his least favourite surface, clay, at the 1993 French Open. After a four-month lay off due to injury, he won his comeback tournament (Monica Seles style), on clay, beating a clay-court specialist in Carlos Costa. He made the semis in Australia in '92 and at Roland Garros the following year.

Well, I tried. Only, no one fought it. Those were just flukes, they said. I loved his remark about the women tennis players being fat, lazy pigs—they were disgusted. I was delighted when he reached his first Grand Slam semi-final: he had to pull out with tendinitis. I bought tickets for the Davis Cup tie in Jaipur earlier this

To say that the author is nuts over Krajicek is putting it mildly



year-he wasn't selected!

Slowly, but surely, I started to give up. After all, let's face it: I hadn't taker a liking to the guy because he was a good tennis player, but on account of his cuteness. Let's just say I took him at face value. And now, I was beginning to tire of the recurring disappointments. He may be in the to 20, but at Grand Slams—forget it! The Kafelnikovs & the Rioses were catching up and leaving Krajicek behind.

But still, the obsession continued. What else can you call it but obsession when you name your quiz team K.F.C. of Krajicek Fan Club; when yo fantasize about Krajicek winning Wimbledon ("Wimbledon!!! Are you kidding"?); when you dedicate songs to him on F.M. (the deejay was even kind enough to play me a song by 2 Unlimited because it's a Dutch group

I knew which basketball team he liked (L.A. Lakers), I knew that his father was the Jim Pearce of Men's tennis; I knew that his birthday fell of 6th December; I knew that he lost to Darren Cahill at Wimbledon'94, and to Bryan Shelton in '95. I knew that his girlfriend (yuk!) was a travel show hostess. But the point was, what was to do with all this information? Who cared about this gentle giant, who looked like a bull in a China shop and served atom bombs with little effect?

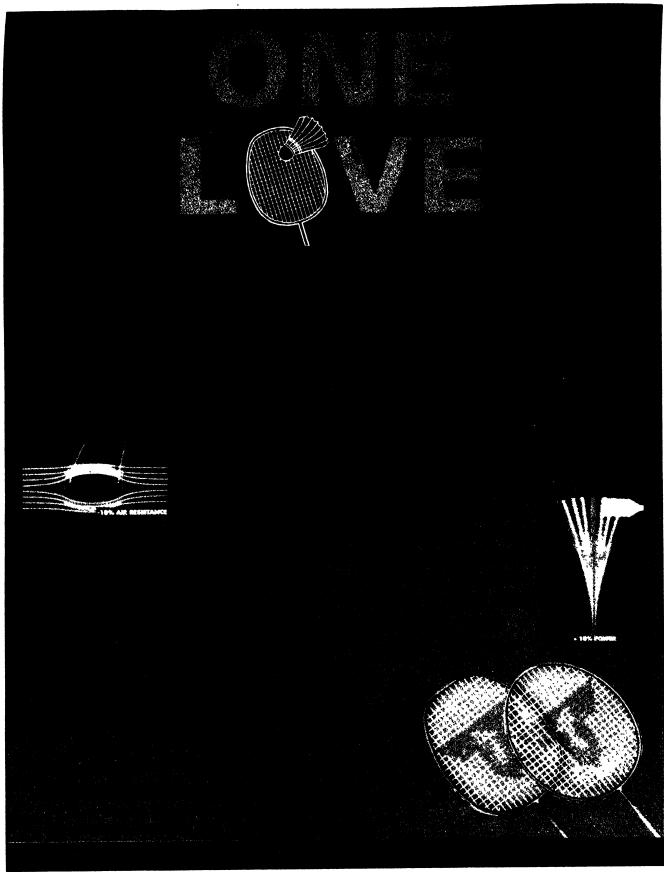
Well, my ambition for the last four years has been to be Richard Krajicek's biographer. The name of the book would be "My Dick"!!! But who could possibly want to read it, came the prompt response.

Right now, I have one regret. That could not write to Krajicek to let him know that I had a huge laminated photograph of him (and his backhand) right above my bed. 'Cos i I write to him now, I'll just be one of many.

I still remember a quiz where we were asked to identify a picture of Krajicek. Someone at the back shouted, "Pam Shriver." On second thoughts, I won't call the biography "My Dick". I'll call it "From Joke to Champion".

Oindrilla Mukherjee

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PROFF SSIONAL SPORT

4

SCENT OF A WOMAN

One grand slam! That's all she acquired But Gabriela Sabatini also won a million hearts. And a perfume, a rose and a doll later she announced her retirement from the women's Tour

8

CATCH A STAR!

The Titan Cup loss to India notwithstanding, South African cricket is on a roll Thanks to the astute leadership of Hansie Cronje

151

MAD MAN WALKING, PSYCHOPATH TALKING!

Paul Gascoigne inspite of all his talent is nuttier than a fruit cake

ASHOKE CHAKRABORI Y





34

BRIAN LARA: HUNGRY FOR RUNS AGAIN

11:

WEST INDIES CRICKET: BACK TO THE FUTURE

18

FANIE DE VILLIERS: CHILD OF CHANGE

4

SPOTLIGHT: DARYLL CULLINAN

JCT: FLATTERING TO DECEIVE

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EURO SOCCER UPDATE

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FOCUS ON THE 2000 GAMES

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TENNIS INDEX

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF HANSIE CRONJE BY ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

SCENT OF A WOMAN

BY ROBIN CHATTERJEE

One Grand Slam! That's all she acquired. But she also won a million hearts. And a perfume, a rose and a doll later, Gabriela Sabatini announced her retirement from the women's Tour.

S I sit in front of my PC writing this piece, I cannot help but miss the exquisite feeling of my heartbeat getting quicker every time

Gabriela Sabatini used to come on to the tennis courts.

You can blame it on my hysensitive male hormones but the fact is that I am not alone. I belong to that very special club, along with the agents of Sergio Tacchini, Prince, Ray-Ban, Pepsi, the bottlers and makers of 'Sabatini' the perfume, the man who cultivated the 'Sabatini Rose', the guys who made the Sabatini doll and the Good Lord above who took time off to make her. The fact is that we have suddenly noticed a very pertinent trait that was hitherto missing in our bodily functions...our legs are finally holding up!

Are we happy? I don't particularly think so. It was a nice experience you see, that weak kneed feeling. It was something we wouldn't mind experiencing over and over again.

Then again, everything about Gabriela Sabatini was news. And it couldn't have been any other way. This statement is not even debatable.

Consider: when your ranking turbos from 74 to 11 on the Tour it is generally a sign that something is happening.

When you've got a face that Rembrandt would in normal circumstances kill for and long, slim legs that should at best be preserved, then you're on your way to the big time.

Add to that a delightful Latin accent to the English language and the talent to play some mean tennis and soon sportswriters realised

One reason for Sebatini's decline was because her game did not change with time



that they had not a talent but a veritable situation on their hands.

Like I said guys, most of us wanted to write about Gaby because we were head over heels in love with her.

Sadly, however, all good things come to an end. Only in this case, we should make it premature. Over the last two years, it was becoming blatantly evident that the scent of Gabriela the perfume was far more stronger than Sabatini the player. Ironically, this was true both figuratively and literally. While her game continued to plummet, her perfume became the highest selling brand in Germany with a 6.4 percent market share.

And Gaby? She became a has-been, preferring to find solace in her singing, her pink-blue Honda motorcycle and her ranch in Buenos Aires.

Word had gotten out on the women's Tour: the girl who looked like an angel and walked like John Wayne was fallible. Her opponents no longer took her seriously, they lost respect. People are in awe of you when they study your track record. It was quite evident over the last two years that Sabatini's beauty transcended her results. She had become a commodity not a tennis player. Her name was on almost anything except a Tour title.

It was not expected to be so serious in the beginning. Rather, her problems were diagnosed as just a minor blip. But soon it took over the form of a full-blown crisis.

By all accounts, Sabatini's slide started at the French Open in 1993. She let a 6-1, 5-1 lead over Mary Joe Fernandez slip away in the quarters and things were just not the same again. Sabatini eventually lost the match 1-6, 7-6, 10-8 and according to her then coach Dennis Ralston it was a match,"she hasn't been able to shake off. The fire went out of her, and she hasn't gotten it back."

Things got progressively worse for Gaby at the French Open in 1994, when she got knocked out in the first round by little known Italian teenager Silvia Farina. It was the second time in her 10 year career that she had failed to advance in a Grand Slam. Ironically, the upset took place in the same court—Court No. 1—in which she had lost the previous year to Mary Joe Fernandez.

On closer inspection we can safely conclude that 1993-'94 were not the only reasons for Gaby's decline. The major problem lay in her

She stunned all by her beauty and elegance, but her game never left any lasting impressions on her fams



(Left)Leather and bikes has always been Sabatini's passions in life

game. Sabatini had not adapted to the times. Her tennis had become predictable: soft serve, top-spin forehand, top-spin backhand. At the first point of a match and at match point she was doing exactly the same thing.

Sabatini's first serve was a gentle appetiser. Her second serve, a careless whisper. It was a professional liability in the age of nuclear tennis. Her opponent's were finding enough time to go around the back of the ball and blast it back to space... empty space.

Space. It was also something which Sabatini dearly needed. She was being questioned about her win-less streak almost everywhere she went. By now it became even more obvious that a major portion of her problems were more mental than physical. The additional pressure did not help. In normal circumstances, Sabatini would run back to her family in Argentina, this time she tried another remedy...

She became a social butterfly: shopping in the day and partying in the night with the likes of pop singer Michael Bolton, NBA basketball stars and Formula One race car drivers. Somewhere in the middle of all this, she took out time to practice. Her game, or the lack of it, represented her state of mind.

Sabatini tried to explain her problems saying that it was all due to a new-found maturity. "I think you go through stages," she offered. "At the beginning, everything is fun and games. And then you start to feel the pressure, even to the point of not liking tennis. And then, because of the experiences, you grow again.

"I know a lot of people, especially the press in Argentina say, 'Oh, you're never going to be No. 1. What's happening? You don't want to play tennis anymore'?"

She didn't. The truth had finally caught up. Tennis was no longer fun for Gaby and she reiterated this at her retirement press conference at Madison Square Garden.

"I want to inform you about my decision to remove myself from the professional circuit," she explained. She also insisted that her early retirement was because of the toll of 13 years and 250 tournaments and not because of her slide in the world rankings. "This is what I want to do for my life, this is what makes me happy, and this was the right time to do it," she said while her family and her coach looked on with moist eyes.



'Don't cry for me Argentina' must have been the tune of Sabatini's swan song

"It broke my heart to see her suffering out there," said her coach Juan Nunez. "I felt like I was pushing her to do things she didn't want to do anymore." This statement exemplified itself when one gazed in wonder at Sabatini's score sheet at the Swiss Open in which she played just prior to announcing her retirement. Sabatini lost in the first round to comeback kid Jennifer Capriati, waved to her fans and then went into the locker room and cried. It was over, she knew...

Were they tears of sadness or of relief? Sabatini testified that it was the latter.

And what now? Well, there will be the launching of a new perfume next year, perhaps a rose, a pop album, some garments maybe.

And what of us? We'll just have to erase all her files from our lap-tops and go back to feeling normal all over again. The legs have finally begun to hold up.

CATCH ASTAR!



The South Africans are on a roll. Thanks to the astute leadership of their captain, HANSIE CRONJE

Wessel Johannes 'Hansie' Cronje portrait of a cricketer as a man



ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

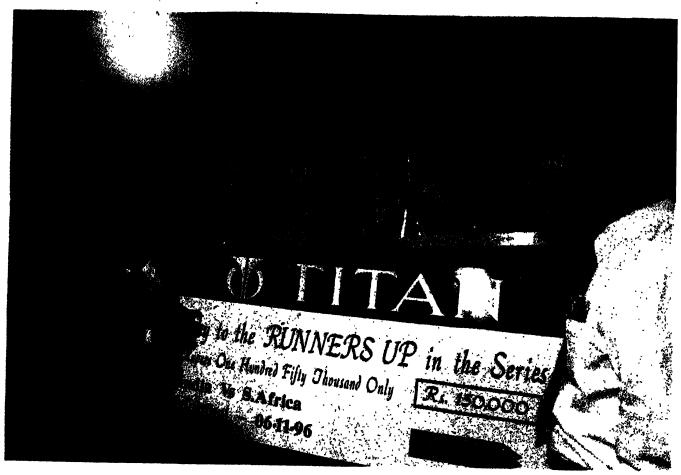
Orange Free State. It is also the cultural hub of the Afrikaner. It is here, in this wide open space occupied by a fiercely proud people, that a man by the name of Johan Volsteedt lives.

Man? It sounds too ordinary. No, make that an icon, a guru. Johan Volsteedt is the headmaster of the city's prestigious Grey College. The college itself, like the residents of Bloemfontein, has an equally proud history that dates back to as far as 1855.

Johan Volsteedt the humble man that he is, worked his way up to the topmost rung of the education system. Before he assumed official charge as headmaster in 1992, Volsteedt taught Afrikaans at his old school. And in his spare time, he indulged in a little bit of tuition...in cricket. During his time, Volsteedt found it difficult to impress upon people that cricket was also a decent sport. The fact is, that South Africans had their own order of priorities as far as playing sport was concerned. You want to play games, play rugby. Everything else was secondary.

Or, at least, it was. Volsteedt's singleminded dedication towards the game has seen to that. Which is probably why when historians do trace the rise of the Afrikaner in world cricket they will attribute it to the efforts of Volsteedt. And if perchance, the historians do manage to ignore the contribution of this man then maybe, just maybe,there will be someone who will stand up and ask Volsteedt to take a bow. That person could well be Volsteedt's favourite pupil: Cronje, Wessel Johannes Cronje. His teammates call him 'Hansie'.

Volsteedt may have never thought in his wildest dreams that Hansie Cronje was going to be the captain of the South African cricket team. Neither did he ever visualise that Cronje and his men were going to become an indestructible cricketing force (their defeat in the final of the Titan Cup notwithstanding). After Kepler Wessels (another Volsteedt pupil) and Cronje there have been a spate of Afrikaner cricketers in the South African team. And unlike the ordinary rugby crazy Afrikaner the likes of Allan Donald, Fanie De Villiers





A minor blip in South Africa's cricket record. After winning six straight matches in the Titan Cup, South Africa lost to India in the final

and Gerhardus Liebenburg all love their krieket.

Hansie Cronje was in Standard VII when he told his teacher: "Sir, one day I will play for South Africa at Lord's, I will pay for you to be there." It has been a long and eventful journey for Cronje since he made that promise to Johan Volsteedt.

Cronje was 25 when he was bestowed with the captaincy but his bearing and credentials seemed to illustrate that he was born for the job (see stats box). Moreover, his sense of management seemed to suggest that Cronje was a "players' captain". He had a knack of knowing the requirements of his men while at the same time accepting the fact that they were talented individuals who played cricket and not machines. To this extent he was once quoted as saying that "I am a democratic leader. I like to get inputs from the rest of the team and make them feel important. We all share responsibility—we must all have a share in our destiny."

Yet, there have been times when Cronje has gone out of his way to try and undertake a major portion of the workload—whether it be on the field or off it. In the

Although he's only 26, Cronje's bearing and credentials as a captain suggest that he was born for the job

summer of 1995, when England and the West Indies were grinding it out in what was to be a deadlocked series the incumbent captain of South Africa was in the stands with his wife taking notes on the English cricketers. Cronje was on a reconnaissance mission, as his county engagements for Leicester were over. The notes that he had taken down on the opposition were no doubt going to be useful for formulating a gameplan.

On his own part, Cronje was prepared to reveal that South Africa had been preparing since April for their winter series against England. Their initial training camp had been devoted to general physical fitness and after that Woolmer and the rest of the team were going to study Cronje's notes and get down to what they called 'specifics'. The seeds for South Africa's dominance in world cricket had been sown then, their aim being to become the most dominant cricketing nation by the next century.

Cronje's commitment to improving himself was illustrated by the way in which he undertook his county engagements. He often bowled more than 20 overs a day; fielded anywhere; and pursued almost every ball to the boundary. Part of Cronje's commitment stems from his impeccable physical fitness. Although Cronje is 6ft. 4in. he is not ungainly. Moreover, he has stressed upon himself to improve through the use of sports scientists and slow-motion video.

Cronje may be obsessed with the idea of winning but he knows that pushing at a goal may have its own negative effects. In this respect, Cronje is wisely flexible and together with coach Bob Woolmer, who could be credited with inventing 'cyber cricket', they have struck up an effective partnership. The two of them approach a situation with logic rather than gut feeling. And this, in most cases, turns out to be the winning formula for the team. Small wonder that team spirit is at an all-time high.

Through all their trials and tribulations, the South Africans can find solace in one bright spot: their captain is never short of confidence. Moreover, Cronje's captaincy is a mixture of astute and effective. There are times when he is ready to take risks in order to force a result, and then again he will opt for cautious retreat if the going is not entirely smooth. And through it all, he has always provided his bowlers and fielders with a shoulder to lean on while setting high standards for himself as a cricketer. It is Cronje's spirit of enterprise which is in sharp contrast to the work ethic of the former skipper Kepler Wessels, who preferred caution, and hence seemed to be functioning on clockwork.

Maybe it is his shrewd and ambitious Afrikaner qualities that have given Cronje such an effective career graph. When asked if the Afrikaner had something special Cronje's coach, Volsteedt once said, "No, but some have that hunger to do well; the will to reach the top." Cronje has that will but he is not alone.



HANSIE CRONJE: AT A GLANCE

IN TEST CRICKET

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IN ONE-DAY CRICKET

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AS TEST CAPTAIN

Tusto	Wen	Drawn	Lest
11	6	4	1

★ Cronje lost his first Test as captain against New Zealand at Johannesburg in the 1994-95 series. But luck seemed to be on his side as he won the next five Test matches in a row—three against New Zealand, one versus Pakistan and one against Zimbabwe. Cronje won his sixth Test as captain against England in the 1995-96 series.

AS ONE-DAY CAPTAIN

Matches	Wan	Lost	Abandoned
39	32	7	0

In the last 28 one-day matches, Cronje won 25 and lost only three.

Compiled by Hariprasad Chattopadhyay



Batting, bowling or fielding, Cronje likes to set an example. He is second to none when it comes to sheer effort



Chalking out strategy with talented betsman, Daryll Cullinan. Cronje is the ideal "players' captain"



Cronje in consultation with the umpires and his spinner Pat Symcox: getting the best out of his men

The entire South African team is testimony to this.

Cronje provides something for the traditionalists too. For while he really has prospered in the one-day version of the game, his heart and priorities lie in Test cricket and the current improvement that is taking place in that version of the game. Cronje knows all about it, for he is a result-oriented captain. "Captains have to realise that they have a responsibility to be positive, and as long as that's the case, people will come to watch Test cricket. I'm in the game to be the best player I can be, to give my country everything I've got and if records come that's fine."

It has been a long but fulfilling journey for Johan Volsteedt and his favourite student. But the teacher can claim to have shown the way. He is sure that others will follow and no doubt they will be grateful for the efforts of this man. As Cronje was on that day at Lord's in 1995. He was vice-captain during that tour of England and as he stepped onto the hallowed turf of the home of cricket the crowd of 28,000 burst into applause. Clapping emotionally amongst them in the stands was Johan Volsteedt.

Wessel Johannes (Hansie) Cronje had kept his promise. ●



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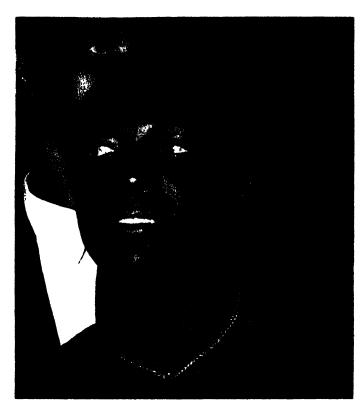
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A CRASHING SU(





A much reformed BRIAN LARA is ready to get back to cricketing centrestage af

superstar Brian Lara is now in Australia with two main intentions: first he has set his sights on four centuries in the five Tests against Australia; more importantly, he intends to shed his naughty-boy tag forever.

Sporting heroes spend their lives dodging cameras, but one of Lara's first acts after landing in Australia was to politely ask a photographer, "have you got all you need?" as he was snapped leaving Customs. For those who saw—or tried to see—Brian Lara over the last two years, that's a change. It is a small sign that the gifted enigma intends to generate bon-homic rather than bon-fires on the cricket field. Lara now confesses that he has made many mistakes, but rather than regret them, he has put

them down to life's valuable learning lessons.

In his new post as West Indian vice-captain, Lara has promised his loyalty to skipper Courtney Walsh and the new management team of Clive Lloyd and Malcolm Marshall. Remember, Lara was the man who spoke openly against former skipper Ritchie Richardson, fought with physio Dennis Waight and had differences with coach Andy Roberts.

In fact, Lara's life has been put through the tumble-dry since he snatched the world Test record of 375 two-and-a-half years ago. Among the grand accolades came suffocating pressures and personality clashes with others.

Lara was disciplined after the 1995 England tour, subsequently withdrew from the West Indian one-day tour of Australia last year and orchestrated several goof-ups during this year's World Cup on the sub-continent.

But after years of relentless grind on the cricket treadmill he has had a merciful winter off during which he took in the Atlanta Olympics and celebrated the birth of his daughter Sydney, named after one city which hosted his 227 against Australia four years ago.

Lara has also learnt to understand the meaning of fame. "Back in the West Indies, our sportsmen are not really conditioned for that kind of superstar status." Lara says looking back on those heady days. "It is different to America where a lot of kids are bred to be superstars."

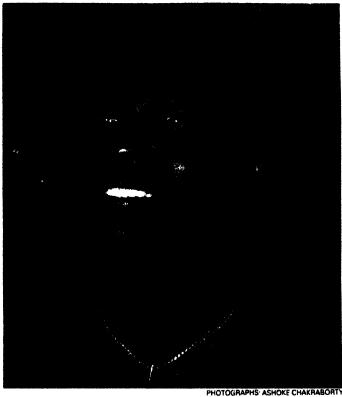
During the peak of the controversy after the England tour, Lara sounded like a young man crying for help when he lamented "cricket is ruining my life." Now in hindsight he admits: "It

14

ESS!

FROM ANDY O'BRIEN, PERTH





rief sabbatical

took me some time to accept the position I found myself in. It was very difficult for me to come to terms with it. Mistakes have been made on many occasions by myself. It is a learning experience. I am not going to go back and say I wish I had done this in a different manner." And about the future: "Hopefully when challenges come up again I will be able to handle them in a different mattner. I am looking forward to the rest of my career being controversy free. I look back and say, 'It is part of life. Keep going. You have been sent here for a reason and have been a member of the West Indian team for a long time and you want to be for the next 10-15 years, so go out and play to the best of your ability'."

Lara quietly—as opposed to boastfully—conceded that he hopes to score "three to four Test centuries

this summer" and says that his form in domestic West Indies cricket has been good. He also affirmed that he does not want to be drawn into comparing management teams, but clearly the new regime has given him peace of mind. "I am quite happy working with this sort of management. I have worked with Clive Lloyd before, played with Malcolm Marshall and Courtney Walsh," he says. "They are all decent human beings." I am not going to compare, but this management has a proven record: both on and off the field. The respect is there. Players look at these guys and remember them playing Test cricket."

Then in a reference to the dressing room politics that had shattered the spirit of the West Indian team over the last two years, Lara says: "Me and the rest of the team are looking forward to working in harmony to ensure West

Indian cricket regains the rightful position. I am not going to put my head on the block, but I don't think anyone will come out of line to destroy the team spirit we have built over the last couple of months."

Lara talks about hurt West Indian pride and how the cricketing world ought to be warned of a West Indian comeback to the top of the game. "It is our turn now to come from behind," he says. "And from a personal point of view, I am looking forward to a bit of revenge after an average year. I think the responsibility is going to be there. I feel refreshed. I am looking forward to getting back into international cricket because I have played since taking on New Zealand in Antigua in May."

I sincerely hope that all you international bowlers have read this. Either get ready to put on your game face...or get ready for therapy.



fter a series of listless performances the West Indies team is all set to serve notice once again

FROM ANDY O'BRIEN, PERTH

T is ironic that the Australian cricket team undertook its tour of India as a kind of preperation for bigger things to come-namely the five Test series against the West Indies One would have expected that the Aussies would have thought more seriously about the Indian tour and not merely given it second class treatment even if it were a curtain-raiser for so-called greater battles ahead They thought it prudent enough to leave behind their two top bowlers Shane Warne and Craig McDermott in what was a sort of experimental tour

To say the least that outlook has backfired Six losses from six matches is not ideal preparation by any stretch of imagination. A no-win buildup is certainly no motivation for greater battles. That is for sure. So Mark Taylor is team suddenly finds itself in a situation where being low on self confidence it has to face a team hungry for revenge. Revenge against the country responsible for the series loss last year in the West Indies a humiliation Carribean cricket had not faced for decades. but were made to face by Australia in. 95. Revenge.

BACK TO 1

With Walsh at the helm, the West Indians have a new-found confidence that was lacking in recent times against the entire cricketing world for writing them off and ridiculing them as a team past its prime. And as if to prove a point, the West Indies fixation with fast bowling seems to have finally reached saturation point. The Windies are overdosing on speed again.

They are currently in Australia not only armed with the customary squad of six speedsters, but with a fast bowler as captain and another as coach -probably a first in world cricket. And ironically they landed earlier this month in Perth about the same time the newspapers hit the streets quoting the Australian captain demanding a crack down on intimidatory fast bowling during the forthcoming Test series.

The 'new' skipper, Courtney Walsh and coach Malcolm Marshall, have predictably declined to buy into that or any other controversial topic so far. But Taylor and his troops need to be in no doubt what to expect. Pace, pace and more pace.

Marshall is happy enough to state the obvious, "They say we have fast bowlers coming out of the trees in the Carribean and hopefully that will continue. Our strength over the years has been our fast bowling, so we will stick to that."

When asked about his style of captaincy Walsh hints that he would be turning up the heat as much as possible. "I can be aggressive when I want to be," he says.

It is generally assumed that the Test attack will be in the hands of Walsh and his long-time partner Curtly Ambrose, plus the experienced Ian Bishop and Kenny Benjamin, with the newcomers Nixon McLean and

you've got just one option: duck





Patterson Thompson here for the experience Thompson a 25 year-old lanky bowler known for his raw pace has played only one Test McClean 23 who is nicknamed Mike Tyson because of his physique and brute strength is yet to make his debut In fact the latter has only 15 first class wickets But Walsh expects both to participate in the battle for the Frank

Worrell Trophy although not immediately They are both competing for a spot he says. Five players in the West Indies squad have played only three Tests between them though the tourists have high hopes for new fastmen McClean and Thompson. Marshall adds

Obviously there are four senior bowlers but you can never know

Shane Warne could well be the guy who ensures that Australia will retain the Frank Worrell trophy

with injuries and form. They are all hungry and they all want to play at the highest level and there is no better place to do that than in Australia."

The four senior bowlers have all had injury problems at various stages with Bishop probably the most prone to breaking down

Walsh as captain has never been noted for big talking and that hasn t changed now that he is full control of the team. There has been no chest thumping leading up to the series and he agrees that Australia deserve to start as favourities. Yet most people say that this West Indies management party (with Clive Lloyd as manager) has an ominous air of confidence not seen in many recent Windies management teams.

Both Walsh and Marshall claim there is none of the internal friction which has plagued the team for the last couple years. Walsh admits that the demoralising defeat by the part timers from Kenya during the World Cup earlier this year had been a turning point. You couldn't have found a more disappointed bunch of guys after that game but it drove it home that you can't afford to get complacent. he said. He is also of the highly respected Lloyd has been the best thing that could have happened

Well the next four months will show who ther the fatherly Lloyd the cagey Marshall and the stoic Walsh can take the West Indies back to the top of world cricket or not. If they manage to do just that it could well spell doom for the rest of the cricketing nations.

Test dates: First Test (Brisbane, Nov.22-26); Second Test (Sydney, Nov.29-Dec.3); Third Test (Melbourne, Dec.26-30); Fourth Test (Adelaide, Jan.25-29); Fifth Test (Perth, Feb.1-5).



QUESTIONS

A West Indian batsman took only 56 balls to record the fastest hundred in Test cricket. Who was he?

Who according to cricketing folklore were referred to as the three W's of the West Indies team?

Brisbane's most famous cricket ground is popularly known as the Gabba. What is its actual name? Sandip Patil once hit 24 runs in an over in England. Who was the bowler at the receiving end?

There was one journeyman in the Indian side for the '83 World Cup. He did not play a single match during the whole tournament. Who was he?

Who holds the record of holding the maximum number of catches after he came on to the field as a substitute?

My cricket career lasted for a phenomenal period of over 40 years. Who am I?

Who is known as the father of Madras (now Chennai) cricket?

Answer to Question No.1





Answer to Question No.6

Which Indian wicket keeper scored 172 in a single days play? Which Indian skipper while batting was hit on the head by Charlie Griffith of the West Indies?

ANSWERS

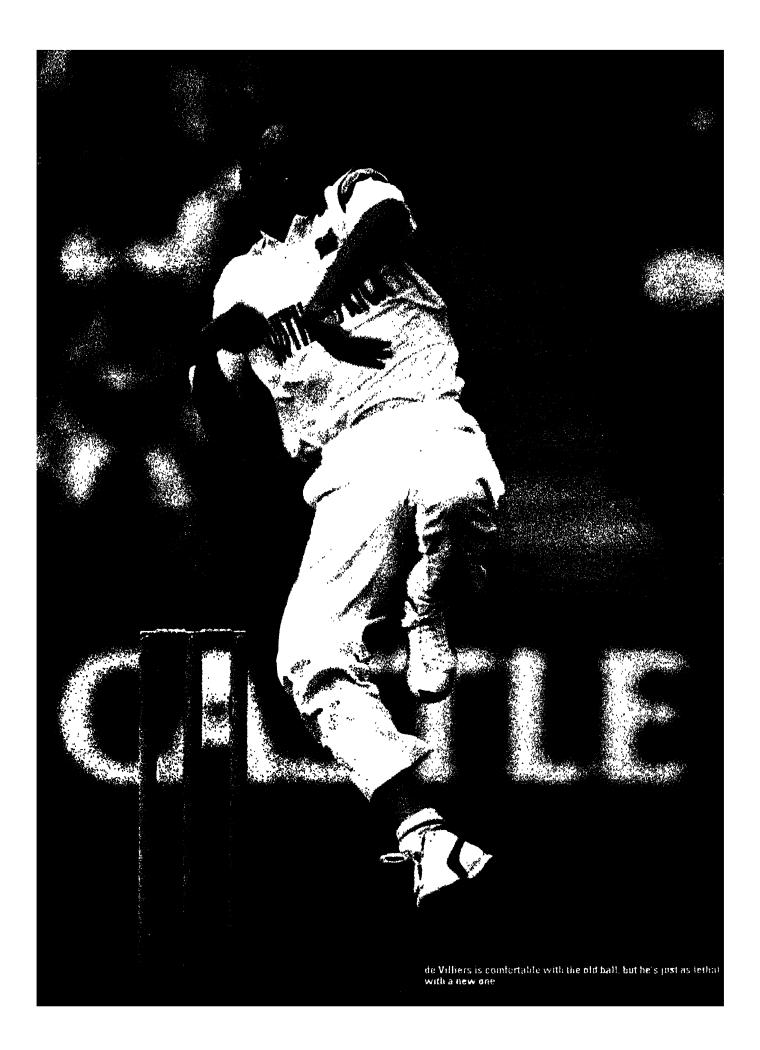
- 1. Viv Richards.
- 2. Weekes, Walcott and Worrel.
- 3. Woollongabba.
- 4. Bob Willis.
- 5. Sunil Valson.
- 6. W.V.Raman took 8 catches while fielding as a substitute.
- 7. C.K. Nayadu.
- 8. Buchi Babu.
- 9. Budhi Kunadran.
- 10. Nari Contractor.

THIS QUIZHAS BEEN COMPILED BY



C.K. SUBRAMANIAM, A-101 SYNDICATE BANK QTRS, PLOT 28,29,32,33 SECTOR 17, VASHI, NAVI MUMBAI, Pin: 400 705

All answers sent in by contributor. Readers are requested to send in atleast 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quiz



THE CHILD OF CHANGE

It isn't just his talent that makes FANIE de VILLIERS a good cricketer. It is his sense of duty, discipline and the lessons that he has learnt from life

BY BICA BOY

F is part joker, part puritan, a breaker of moulds—and living testimony to the success of the international sports boycott which helped force South Africa out of its

apartheid kraal

The cocktail which produced Petrus Stephanus de Villiers is the outcome of an isolated yet close-knit Amikaaner ubringing and a later collision with an outside world which he finds not entirely to his taste

The son of a farmer in Sasolburg a farming area on the high veldt South of Jo burg, de Villiers grew up in a world which had little or no contact with the English settler class—even less with cricket a largely alien pastime for the barefoot boys of the veldt

As a youngster athletics was his thing, and he became a teenage champion javelin thrower. Even today, there is testimony to his throwing skills. De Villiers can throw a ball from one end of a rugby pitch ever the crossbar at the other end and batsmen chance his arm in the deep at their peril.

But, by the age of 25 when he had become one of South African's five cricketers of the year time-and cricket—was in danger of passing him by. Like the man in the song who took his haip to a party where nobody asked him to play, there were no challenges left in the insular world thanks to the restrictions forced on the country.

"I had played against Mike Gatting's rebels but the future seemed empty," de Villiers recalls "I slackened off on the extra training. When they stopped the rebel tours, I had to sit down and work out my priorities. Family and my work came first and second and cricket was a poor third. I couldn't make enough money out of cricket to support my wife and family (he has wo



It is usually the batsmen who get a 'licking' once de Villiers gets ticking

young children) and it was in my mind to give it away."
The season de Villiers spent with Kent in 1990 (25 wickets at nearly 40 apiece) did not help to rekindle the fire. But politically South Africa was getting ready for its tryst with destiny and subsequently the forthcoming.

changes in the country were to be beneficial for him. Sure enough, South Africa were readmitted to the international brotherhood and a man looking into the abyss of his career was unexpectedly glimpsing a limitless horizon.

De Villiers soon went to Australia in the winter of 1994 as a quick bowler untried at Test level. Brett Schultz was the natural new-ball partner for Allan Donald but he went down with knee trouble and de Villiers was presented with the perfect opportunity. Without his 10 wickets on debut at Sydney, South Africa would surely not have achieved that glorious five run victory. In his words, "The Sydney Test -it must be one of the biggest turnarounds in Test cricket. We lost 11 out of 13 sessions in the game and yet we won it. It was quite sensational."

Since then there has been no disputing de Villiers' right to top billing in the South African team. Today he maintains that his forte as a bowler is when the shine is off the ball "that is when I tend to get most of my wickets but you will hear no complaints from me about being asked to take the new-ball." Gifted with a prodigious out-swinger these days, however, his main weapon is the fantastic slower delivery that resembles the faster off-spinner. Apart from an unwavering consistency, his will-power and stamina are phenomenal. Nowhere were these qualities better shown than in the searing heat of the first Test against Australia at Sydney, two winters ago, where over after over, de Villiers slowly swung the game South Africa's way. His marathon stint of six for 43 was testimony to his relentless work ethic and South Africa won the Test as Australia failed to score the 131 runs required. In the next Test in Adelaide, his obduracy compelled him to bat with a broken bone in his hand: Although in great discomfort, he still managed to keep Shane Warne at bay for half the day, and the match was saved.

De Villiers has never hung on the great names of South Africa's cricketing past. "The first time I saw cricket was when I went to primary school at 11. Before that, my sports —and those of my heroes—were rugby and athletics. Cricket was a mystery to most Afrikaaners, and, in any case, there weren't much facilities to play it," says he.

Cricket's progress has been helped by it being a team game, as togetherness is a strong Boer trait. This has also reduced the traditional suspicion with which they regard anything revered by the English. One of the teachers who pioneered the game's introduction was de Villiers' father, Braan, who combined farming with fierce passion for all sport. Within two years of the game's introduction, Sasolburg primary was the best cricketing school in the region where young de Villiers was hooked. The sport was also sweeping schools over the high veldt and the Orange Free State.

"We were not as lucky as the white kids," he recalls of his juvenile days. "They had plenty of opportunities

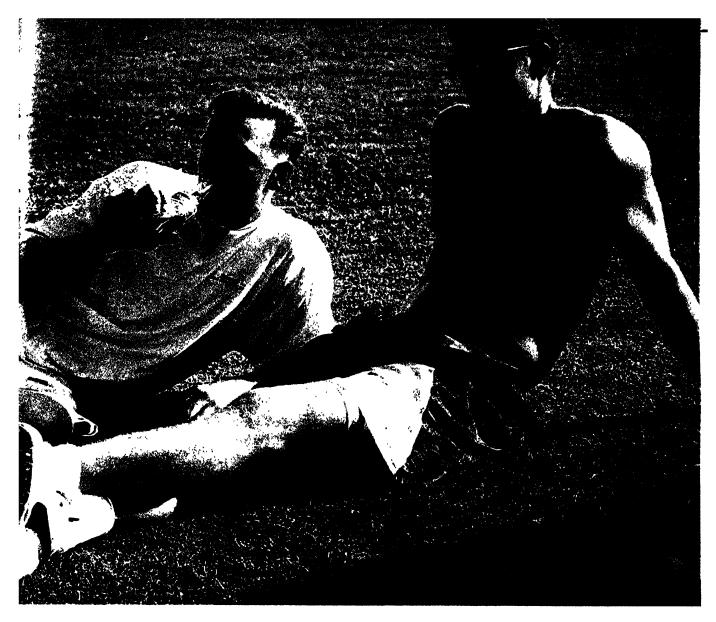


and lived in areas where cricket was played regularly," says the former Georgraphy and Physical education school teacher.

Lieutenant de Villiers' two years national service with the South African Defence force left him in no doubt that the young today lack discipline. "I see youths hanging round street corners with nothing to do and it's very pathetic. Many leave school at standard eight (age 16) and what hope is there for them of creating a life where they can't bring up a family?"

His "positive attitude" and "dedication" has helped to overcome many serious setbacks on his way to international fame and he treats his every moment at the top as a bonus.

While doing his compulsory military service 4 1/2 years back, in Pretoria, a steel drum of boiling lime exploded on his face. De Villiers was in charge of a ground of men marking a cricket pitch and a rugby field. The stock of lime had run out and a new batch delivered was of the wrong type. The hot lime crust which shot-up 40 inches into the air after exploding



covered his lace, burning his skin and eyes. De Villiers was taken to hospital where his eyes were prised open, and doctors worked for three hours trying to wash the acid off his eyes.

"The end result was that five of the seven or eight layers of my eyes were burnt off and there were still a lot of fragments in my eyes," de Villiers recalled. After three days the doctors discovered there was no growth in his eyes and told the devastated young man that he would not see again.

I prepared myself to be blind," he said, "I spent hours and hours with my dad talking about it and how I and the family were going to cope up with blindness. But there was hope. Five days after the accident doctors told me there were signs of re-growth. Even though there was absolutely no sight for three to four weeks, then I began to see again." For de Villiers this was the second time he overcame mighty odds to emerge as a survivor.

At 18, he spent almost five months on his bed after an intricate operation where bone from his hip was used to

de Villiers with Allan Donald: the opening due that has wreaked havec with many a batting combination

fuse three vertebra. For a man who's life is influenced by Shakespeare's words. 'There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so' (Hamlet) it wasn't too difficult to win over the adversities that plagued his way to international fame.

Ever since South Africa's return to world cricket, Fanie de Villiers has had a new lease of life, and he hasgratefully taken this chance with both hands. Playing Test cricket has given him the opportunity to see other countries at close quarters, something that was not possible until a few years ago, and being a part of history clearly appeals to him.

Now at 31, if the ball swings in his favour the next few years he'll surely realise his sporting ambitions. For, in modern cricket there isn't a better believer in the "policy of high returns" than the insurance man, Fanie de Villiers.

23

PLAY HARD, PARTY HARDER

That seems to be the mantra of the Aussie cricketers.

BY LEKHA J. SHANKAR

HEY'RE well-known as hardened professionals, who don't think beyond their job. in this case, cricket. We're talking of the never-say-die attitude, the win-at-any-cost temperament of the Australian cricket team. But things seem to be changing for the hard nosed cricketers from Down

Under. They work (read play) hard and then party equally hard. In short the cricketers do give up thinking about the game for atleast a while.

A case in point would be the way the Aussies conducted themselves after their loss to India in the one-off Test in Delhi. So, what exactly did they do after they lost the Test? Well, for starters they did not sulk, moan, or complain about the wickets, the umpires, or the crowds. "Our

preparations, were under-done," sa Steve Waugh. "Mongia showed us what we should have done." rued brother, Mark. "The spinners were marvellous," admitted Glenn McGrath. "We hadn't played a Test a long time," offered Michael Bevar lamely.

Then in order to 'square' up the

Mark Waugh the perennial favourite of the k was a hot draw in India too





defeat, the Aussies practised long and hard at the nets of the National Stadium during the four days that they remained in the capital, after the Test. And, after the training-sessions? Well, Delhi offered them with a lot of options.

As most of them had seen the Taj Mahal, during the World Cup, it was the local sights that they did go out and see—the Red Fort, the Qutab Minar, etc. Steve Waugh, in his characteristic 'exploring' manner, went one step further, and visited Old Delhi-by rickshaw! "It was fascinating," he exclaimed. He said that he always enjoyed "meeting ordinary people, and understanding the way they live." In this connection, he recounted a very interesting story of how he and his team were impressed by a porter, who helped them a lot, at the Lanka Oberoi Hotel in Sri Lanka during the Singer Cup. "He was a genuinely good guy, and when we heard that he was struggling hard to gather money to buy a house, we pooled together and gave him \$1500!"

Ricky Ponting seems to be on the same wave length as these kids who surely went home wiser

This sounds very different from the selfish, self-centred Aussies that we've heard so much about, doesn't it? Well, the team did their bit for the kids of Delhi, when tive of them took part in a 'Cricket Clinic' for children. Ian Healy, Ricky Ponting. Glenn McGrath, and the Waugh Brothers delighted 300-odd kids, when they went through the routine of batting, bowling and catching with them, during a hot, 2-hour afternoon-session.

McGrath was soft and charming, as he sat on the grass (to come down to the level of the kids), and encouraged them to ask as many questions as possible. Ian Healy tried to 'discipline' the excited youngsters, even as he signed autographs and cheerfully posed for photographs. Mark Waugh thrilled his group with his throaty laugh and lively spirits. On missing a catch and hurting his finger, he told the 'small' bowler—''Gee, you're big and last, make sure you don't hurt me!

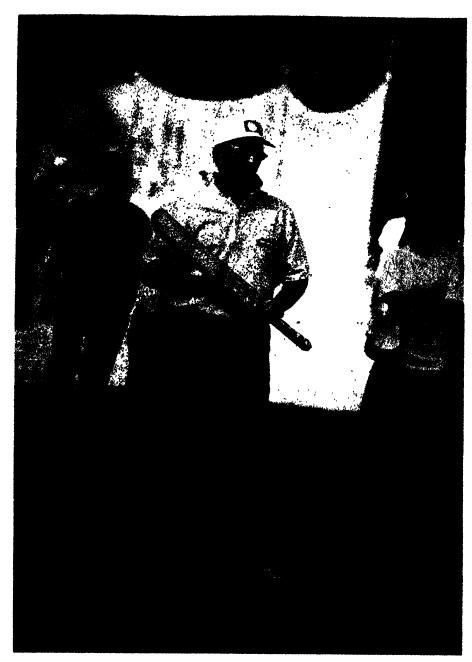
"He introduced another pint-sized boy as his "Boss,he's been calling me 'Junior'!" (to distinguish him from brother Steve.)

Steve Waugh was his usual earnest self, as he urged the kids to 'Concentrate...that's very important. See the ball, bend low, catch the ball with both hands," he instructed, while team-mate Ricky Ponting juggled the ball among them, like an acrobat.

"My arm's sore" smiled Steve Waugh, at the end, after signing his Nth autograph. Ian Healy was impressed by the enthusiasm of the kids. "We've individually done such camps, in Australia," he mentioned, "but this is the first time we're doing it as a team."

For a team who were wary of the 'fanatical' cricket-lans of India, it was an impressive gesture. Needless to say, they were paid well for it. In fact, after the last World Cup, a business manager was hired for the Aussie team, to supervise their endorsements and other non-cricket activities.

That's why the Waugh brothers





were richer by several thousand dollars, when they 'posed' for the Pantaloon Shoppe. The dashing ad, when it appeared in the papers, took their fans by storm. "We look like movie-stars, don't we?" quipped Mark, to a group of college-girls, who had come to meet him. In fact, he was the only Australian cricketer who ventured into the lobby of the team hotel which was teeming with autograph-hunters.

He questioned the girls about their vocational interests, the significance of the 'bindhi', the 'dancing' spots to

Steve Waugh's motivational talks boosted the confidence of the children

visit in Delhi, "though I don't dance." In his usual frank manner, he gave vent to his impressions of India. "Why are newspaper headlines so boring? Why don't trains and planes—ever reach on time? Why do waiters say they'll deliver food in 10 nminutes, and then, take an hour? Why do they put us up in hotels which have no hot water, comfortable beds, as they did in Patiala? Why do people mob us everywhere?"

He didn't look convinced, when he was told that he needed to be 'tough' to survive in India. He admitted that their stomachs were not tough enough to eat the hot Indian food. In fact, the Aussies usually ate at the Chinese restaurant of their hotel, the Taj Palace. They also enjoyed the Italian restaurant of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

With the opening of Delhi's first McDonald's outlet, the team went one afternoon to try its hamburgers, and said they enjoyed it very much, although it tasted 'different' to what



they were used to.

One of the most enjoyable evenings for the Australian team was when they went to an exotic fashion-show, at the 'Tivoli Gardens' farm-house. Entitled 'Weddings' it portrayed elaborate and ornate clothes for the forthcoming marriage-season, designed by none other than Ritu Berry, Delhi's young and dynamic boutique-wear specialist. Mark Waugh said the show was 'fabulous', while the usually quiet McGrath exclaimed that it was 'extremely beautiful'.

lan Healy, the Aussie vice-captain, instilled his sense of leadership and discipline into th children at the cricket clinic

All in all, the Aussies had an eventful stay in Delhi. When not at the nets, they did a lot of 'relaxing' exercises in the swimming-pool. The fitness-freaks among them, like Michael Bevan, Brad Hogg, Michael Slater, spent a lot of time at the hotel's gym. Bevan and Slater 'cooled' off their energy, with their guitars, whenever they could. As they were room-mates, it proved to be a rhythmical friendship, as they're both

learning to play the instrument, and 'practised' hard every evening.

The team visited the hotel's night-club, 'My Kind Of Place' one evening, and seemed to have enjoyed themselves, although they didn't understand the music much.

Who said the Aussies were all work and no play? It's not that they're not 'working'. In fact, their present 'season' is long and tough, stretching as far ahead as 1998. But the hard and tough Aussie cricketer has realised that there's more to life than just winning (or losing) matches

MOODY STROKES

Enigmatic, moody, unpredictable. Aren't these the distinguishing features of talent? Like say for instance, DARYLL CULLINAN...



N December of each year many of South Africa's cricket cognoscenti gather at the annual Nuffield Week, the provincial schools tournament, in the hope of identifying the natural successors to South Africa's great players of the past. It is, more often than not, a frustrating exercise but in 1983 they unearthed a gem and its name was Cullinan, Daryll John.

Daryll Cullinan holds two South African batting records. He is the country's youngest century maker in first-class cricket, having achieved this at the age of 16 years and 10 months. Ten years later, he made South Africa's highest first-class score of 337 not out for Transvaal in a Castle Cup match against Northern Transvaal.

These records confirmed the existence of a prodigious talent and yet in the intervening years, some 70 first-class matches and 120 innings later, he has accumulated only eight other first-class hundreds, of which one was his maiden Test century against Sri Lanka in 1993.

The 10 years have been illuminated by several flashes of rare brilliance, interspersed with periods of doubt and uncertainty, during which Cullinan failed to deliver to the standards of Barry Richards with whom he has often been compared. When South Africa returned to international cricket, Cullinan was preceded into the national team by younger men and the general opinion was that Cullinan was flawed talent incapable of consistent realisation.

The truth was that Cullinan was a late victim of apartheid. South Africa of the Eighties was a barren home for a gifted cricketer. After several years at Stellenbosh University, he seemed unable to settle on a career path that would give him a balance between cricket, security and fulfilment. As a result, his cricket began to suffer and he visibly became more frustrated with the

He's got the look! Daryll Cullinan spruces himself up for this photograph

OF GENIUS

Daryll Cullinan: The brooding, enigmatic portrait of raw unfulfilled talent



The 10 years have been illuminated by several flashes of rare brilliance, interspersed with periods of doubt and uncertainty, during which Cullinan failed to deliver to the standards of Barry Richards with whom he has often been compared

Once Cullinan gets going in the middle, the South Africans start partying

sterile and repetitive nature of South Africa's provincial programme. A quiet man, Cullinan became moody, introspective and subsequently aloof from his Western Province colleagues.

From time to time, Cullinan chose bizarre situations to make stands on principles that seemed out of sync with conventional behaviour. He acquired a reputation for being difficult and his batting began to reflect his attitude.

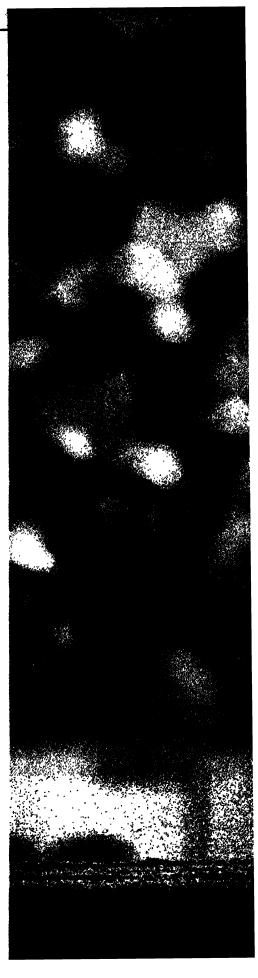
Brilliant performances were outweighed by a series of low scores, straight deliveries were allowed to go through to the stumps, and promising innings cut short by moments of madness at the crease. "In a similar fashion, I missed my second Test match hundred, last year," he confessed. "It was utterly disgusting to get out at 91."

In Cullinan's early days, no one knew what to expect of him when he came in to bat. Refused a nightwatchman on one occasion, he strode to the crease, blazed at almost everything for a few overs, threw his wicket away and returned to the pavilion, point made, in disgrace with his captain. His relationship with Western Province deteriorated to the point where both sides were happy to see the back of the other party.

"In 1991, I moved to Johannesburg and settled down with a badly managed Transvaal team, but two major gains were finding a marketing position with an understanding employer who was anxious enough that I should succeed in my cricket career and above all getting in touch with Eddie Barlow," he says. Barlow was appointed the coach of Transvaal in 1992 and the two men struck a relationship which dearly benefitted the younger character. Barlow's super optimism, knowledge of the game and his ethic for hard work and dedicated training struck a chord with Cullinan who regards Barlow with trust and respect. Barlow and Jimmy Cook, the Transvaal captain had established a sympathetic surrounding in which Cullinan's confidence and self-belief was being nurtured.

Those close to the Transvaal scene began to detect in Cullinan a determination to fulfil his talent, and his massive 337 was the first of many displays of glorious talent liberated from a cocoon of self doubt and insecurity. Unfortunately, Cullinan was overlooked for the '92 World Cup. But soon he found his

Cullinan's batting is based on a very straight bat in defence, and the ability to play back and forward in equal measure. He rarely makes a mistake in choosing the length of the ball which seems to give him extra time to play his shots



MOINUDDIN HAMID



place in the squad with India touring South Africa. He was brought into the team for the final Test when six front-line batsmen were played in order to ensure against defeat. He made an immediate impression in a match noticeable only for the dreary batting by virtually all other participants.

Cullinan was retained for the triangular one-day series against Pakistan and the West, Indies but, like many others before him, he immediately succumbed in his first match to Waqar Younis bowling at his best. The team management then sent Cullinan heaven knows what message by leaving him on the bench for two consecutive matches. For a man hovering on the edge of insecurity and sensitive to slights both real and imagined, this was a blow that was humiliating and undeserved.

He reacted, however, in a mature and disciplined manner. Galling as it must have been for him to sit on the sidelines and watch his teammates perform in the national side, he kept his peace and resolved to make the most of any chance that came his way.

Restored to the team, Cullinan displayed a technique and comfort in dealing with the West Indies attack thereby managing to overshadow his colleagues. Chosen for the Sri Lanka tour, his maiden Test century soon followed. The Hero Cup was also a run feast for him. Following which he hit a brilliant century at Brisbane in a tour match but failed to continue his run thereafter. Though there was evidence of his rare brilliance through some sparkling knocks and magnificent fielding exploits yet, the consistency lacked once again. However, Cullinan's return to form shortly after the World Cup has benefitted his team immensely.

Cullinan's batting is based on a very straight bat in defence, and the ability to play back and forward in equal measure. Like so many great players, he rarely makes a mistake in choosing the length of a ball which seems to give him extra time to play his shots. And like so many of his ilk, Cullinan has been vested with a strange kind of authority when he is displaying his wares at the crease.

It may well be that his career will continue to be blighted by those moments of summer madness. Though Eddie Barlow and a couple of others doubt it. A much more like scenario, they believe, is that a major player has just moved centrestage and will delight spectators all over the world for many years to come.

Rica Roy

ALL PLANS...BUT N()



GOALS!

In spite of their prodigious talent star-studded JCT flatters to decieve BY DHIMAN SARKAR

HERE seems to be very little in common between them. One is articulate, urbane and revels in the media's arclights. The other is soft-spoken and has the air of a small-time-town about him. One hails from the Himalavan foothills in Tinky Tam, Sikkim, the other from Trissur in Kerala. One had already made his mark before pundits all-hailed and elevated the other to

that some of them have come off delectable set-pieces and some more through breathtaking bicycle volleys and you should need no more convincing.

"We've been close ever since our days on the Maidan," Baichung said when Sportsworld met the JCT and India duo at their hotel room (they were roommates, naturally) in Calcutta recently. And though it



the same class. And yet, their friendship is infectious.

It is perhaps this bond of empathy that helps them work wonders on the football field, in tandem and in unison. In fact, it is perhaps possessing the wherewithal to make the seemingly impossible happen with the soccer ball that makes the Baichung Bhutia-I.M.Vijayan friendship and their effectivity as a striking duo tick. "We somehow tend to find and also complement each other," was how the affable Vijayan put it.

That they have between them scored almost 200 goals in their playing career is elucidation enough of their prowess. Add to this the fact

JCT coach Sukhvinder Singh (extreme right) giving a few tips to his players during the interval in the IFA Shield tie against Tollygunge Agragami. (Inset): The star-studded Phagwara team

never interfered with their zest to outdo the other when they took the field on opposing sides, being rivals, it must be said, has not caused their affection to wane either.

For better part of their career, till date Baichung and Vijayan played against each other. The ebony-hued and lithe Keralite for Kerala Police first (88-91) and then Mohun Bagan (91-95) and the athletic and supple Sikkimese for East Bengal (94-95). But when both had carved a niche for themselves (Bhutia, however, felt

多沙漠

GOLD

BENSON & HEDGES

AVAILABLE INTUITY FREE

HE setting was perfect for two of the biggest properties in Indian football to blossom Mohun Bagan and East Bengal were playing the semi-final of the Scissors Cup, the nation's highest prize-money tournament Vijayan netted once for the team in green-and-maroon and Bhutia twice for his team Mohun Bagan beat East Bengal 3-2 but football was the actual winner

The year, 1994, too was significant. It was Bhutia's first year with a big club and Vijayan's last in Calcutta One thing, however, was clear These two would rule Indian football for quite some time.

Two years later, they are clubmates but it was in December last year, during the SAF Games in Madras, that they teamed up together for the first time. And it cheked from the word go Bhutia set up Vijayan for India's match-winner—the only goal they

scored—against Sri Lanka in the opener And though he himself failed to get into the scorer's list, Vijayan got himself there once more, against Nepal

"Instinct coupled with practice helps us gel' the little big man of indian football said before hastening to add that they were far from striking a perfect chord "Both of us being strikers has certainly helped find each other out in the attacking third"

There is, however, no watertight formula for success "See a striker's biggest weapon is his unpredictability, his ability to think on his feet. Being typecast is the surest way to doom," Vijayan said, adding, that they haven't really tried out set-piece moves yet.

Akramov has chipped in with one "During a counter-attack when either of us get the ball, it is to be released immediately to the other

who should then switch the game to the other flank for an overlapping player," Bhutia said

For Bhutia, the highest scorer in this year's Santosh Trophy, first priority on receiving a ball is controlling it and then looking around for opportunities

Vijayan rates his partner's speed, agility, ability in the air and getting past in a one-to-one situation as his assets "I know he will be able to retrieve a situation even when the pass is not a measured one"

Bhutia feels Vijayan's biggest plus is his intuitive mastering of the basics "When he was my age, he didn t have half the facilities (read financial security and better gear thanks to Reebok) I got and that makes a difference

"See when he was 21 he was struggling to establish himself in Kerala Police He couldn't focus



ey are friends who care about each others' well being



Time of Minney: JCT's letter strikers.

wholeheartedly on football. That came much later."

"His fitness too is a problem.

Probably because of the distractions early on in his career, his motivation especially during off-season is not what it should be. It is enough for an Indian where nobody, including myself, have the fitness required in international football but it is also a deterrent to Vijayan fulfilling his potential," Bhutia added.

If he gets this sorted out, he should be playing in one of Asia's premier leagues... At 28, now is the time for him to fulfil his potential."

Some sound advice from one mate to another. After all, that's what friends are for.

Dhiman Sarkar

that Vijayan has delivered only 20 per cent of his potential) that they decided to be club-mates—for the first time—this season.

Vijayan had led the exodus of the Maidan to the mills in Phagwara, taking with him statemate Jo Paul Anchery and Carlton Chapman last year. With cerebral medio Tajinder Kumar already in their ranks, little, it seemed would come in the way of the green shirts. That is if they didn't run into East Bengal for whom Bhutia was a one trumpcard who could decide matches on his own on his day.

Thrice they met last season. JCT won twice—in the tie-breaker— and notched up back-to-back Federation Cup titles. East Bengal once, in the Durand semi-finals which incidentally was the only tournament JCT didn't win of the six they played last season.

Bhutia, scored the equaliser in the

Vijayan gets the better of two Tollygunge Agragami players in the air in JCT's opening match in the Shield 1995 national club championship final. The other two encounters between the teams failed to find either on the goalscorer's list.

When the 1995 AIFF Footballer of the Year, too, was lured by the greenbacks and moved out of Calcutta after three seasons with East Bengal, JCT, it seemed would be laughing their way to the trophies and the megabucks that were beginning to flood Indian football.

Three months and eight matches later, the script unfolded differently than most anticipated it would. This despite the deadly twosome scoring 13 out of the 16 goals the Punjab team netted.

JCT failed to emulate Mohun Bagan's hattrick of national club championship triumphs (Vijayan then played for the green-and-maroon outfit), being knocked out in the tie-breaker in the semi-final by Dempo.

They skipped the Scissors Cup in Madras because it clashed with their

Asian Club Cup commitments. But in that international tournament too, they failed to make it to the quarter-finals. After a hard-fought win, decided on penalties, over Nepal's New Road team, JCT met the Maldives' New Radiant Club. They won the home tie 1-0, riding on Bhutia's brilliance but came a cropper, losing by a brace in the return leg.

"We had an unusually bad day in office," Baichung said. "Both I and Vijayan wasted chances that we would have converted nine times out of 10 on any other day."

Neither the nippy Bhutia nor his mate in the attacking zone, however, see this as a major cause for worry. "Don't judge us by our first eight matches," was an oft-recurring refrain.

Vijayan, in fact, said the team was playing "as well as it had last season. It is only one of those quirks that superiority has not been translated into wins."

But perhaps there is more to it than that

"Eight matches really isn't enough for a team to settle down And the team's nucleus having to report for monthly national camps hasn't really helped matters," Baichung, nicknamed the Tinky Tam Express for his sudden bursts of acceleration, said. Vijayan chipped in saying Anchery's missing most of the season due to injury has compounded woes.

National call-ups have meant Chapman, Tajinder, Bhutia and Vijayan not being able to practise together even one month since July with the rest of the team. In fact, since May, Baichung has spent just 25 days with his teammates.

Also, while at least six players in the The crucial IFA Shield tie between JCT and Mohun Bagan was interrupted due to frayed tempers. Here the referee intervenes to pacify an irate Bagan player

JCT roster—Bhutia, Vijayan,
Chapman, Tajinder, Anchery and
their Nigerian recruits Stephen
Abarowei and Musa Alieu, represent
the cream of Indian soccer, the rest are
notches below the
sextet's capabilities. Granted, not
even the best team in the world can
have an all-star roster, but the usual
recipe for success is the right mixture
of some great and some good players.

AN PARKAGEN STATE OF



The JCT football team seems to lack that and therefore often looks out of sync.

Only through sustained preparatory sessions which should be followed by further fine-tuning through match practice will JCT be able to translate potential into performance. And though national camps did keep a clutch of their footballers in the thick of things, for

the rest, getting into a groove has been a problem.

Football thrives on the fluidity of a team's performance. Being and playing together is a precursor to improvement. Just roping in the top guns won't do.

Lack of practice also means that the players are out of condition. The Kalyani Cup, which JCT played after a fortnight's practice is a pointer to that. The team rode the class of a few players to qualify for the penultimate round but once there they were thwarted by Dempo's superior, albeit defensive, team game. Not one in the Goan ranks had till then caught chief national coach Rustam Akramov's eye but the team's good run can be attributed to their identifying their strengths and —this is important—playing to them.

The lack of a football culture is another bane. "Both of us come from states where soccer is a passion," Baichung, India's first yuppie footballer, said. "It is only because I am a Sikkimese that I took to the game. Had I been born elsewhere, and shown inclinations of becoming a sportsman, I would probably be looking to a career in cricket."

Migration to the mecca of Indian football helped further this desire. "The Calcutta clubs may have a lot of drawbacks. They may have to play almost continuously but playing one's trade in a city where the game is etched into the common man's psyche goes a long way in the making of a footballer. It fuels your hunger for success."

Vijayan summed it up succinctly. "When we went over to JCT, we had been through the grind, soaked in the mental and physical attributes necessary to make the grade in Indian football. Circumstances have denied the rest that."

This is perhaps why the duo's edge has not been blunted. Vijayan kicked off JCT's Kalyani Cup campaign with four goals against Titanium. Two of them were set up by Bhutia who got himself into the scorer's tally too in that match. And when the dusky dynamo failed to live up to his own high standards, the Reebok man was at hand to remedy matters. His five-goal effort against Kerala Police is a national record.

With the team confident of getting Anchery back for the National League and with their Nigerian recruits staying on till March 31, things are beginning to look up for the Phagwara powerhouse. And that is not something other clubs can be looking forward to.



MAD MAN WALKING, **PSYCHOPATH** TALKING There's no doubt about it, PAUL GASCOIGNE for all his talent is nuttier than a fruit-cake

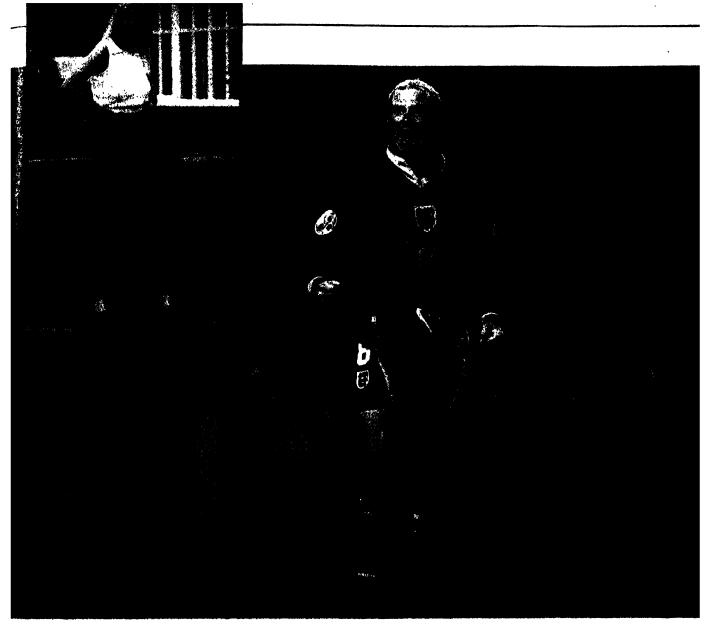


FROM SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

HFN SHFRYI KYLE and PAUL GASCOIGNE fell in love with each other many of Fngland's soccer fans must have had a vivid image of a golden girl walking forever beside their golden boy in sunlight and in laughter. It is now clear that they had a delusion

Paul Gascoigne has long been known for his unpredictable behaviour both on and off the field. But on most occasions his actions have amused people made them laugh endeared him to thousands of fans rather than inflict any pain on anyone or bring disrepute to the game where he once excelled. He is an emotional man we all know that Photographers have long grown used to training their lenses as much on his skills on the field as his various emotional outbursts off it in the hope of catching a glimpse of a weeping Gazza or something similar. He is a kind of man who exults when is on top-sulks when is not quite upto the mark and cries like a child when he fails or even his team fails We all knew that What many of us did not know was that he also beats up his wife and tortures her when he returns home This

It does not take long for Gascoigne to turn from a hero (in Rangers colours)



must be a shocking piece of news to many football watchers abroad. And when Sheryl Gascoigne emerged from the hospital with a black eye, some other facial bruises and every finger but one on her left hand dislocated in a furious assault, we were seething in rage. The smiling funny almost endearing face of Paul Gascoigne staring out of posters, magazines and hoardings seemed like a mindless joke of extremely poor taste.

Only 14 weeks ago Gazza and Sheryl got married. Before that for five long years, they had had a stormy relationship. And then this happened. Gazza had a few drinks too many and then attacked his wife in a hotel in Scotland. He started with a torrent of abuse as they dined; the wayward star hurled insults at the waiters too, and when it all became unbearable, Sheryl fled the scene to seek refuge in their room. But Gazza followed her,

staggering from an experimental cocktail of rare whisky, wine, and some other stuff. While their two children slept in the other room, Paul Gascoigne, who once admitted to inflicting two years of beatings on Sheryl, forced his way into the room and laid into her his bare hands. Several fingers on her left hand were dislocated and her eye was blackened.

Sheryl was left with other scars on her face and a distinct bruise. And she had severe bruising to her neck and arms. This has been Paul Gascoigne's latest achievement. The pro-Gazza lobby is still trying to lay the blame on Glasgow Rangers' first league defeat of the season and trying to explain that Gazza was just too upset and was drowning his sorrows at the hotel bar. Gazza after all is an emotionally high-strong person. But that could he: dly justify the severe pain he

...to a villain (in England colours) and vice versa Inset: Gazza's wife Sheryll. He has admitted beating her for two years!

PHOTOGRAPHS COLORSPORT



inflicted on his innocent wife, who had little to do with the game, anyway. And if every sportsperson with a reason to get upset began to vent their frustrations on his or her spouse and friends, sport would soon require a human rights commission.

Moreover, there is enough evidence to prove that Gazza never needed the frustrations of a defeat to be provoked, and be violent. In 1944, he shocked many of his English fans with the admission that he had regularly been beating his wife. And he described it in all its gory detail: "I beat up Sheryl for two years," he said, "I would end up arguing with her and then I would fight her, slap her. When I used to get aggressive with her, I would grab her by the back of her head, and bang her head. I would be violent in a number of ways. Grabbing her very hard by the arms, butting my head against her,

stabbing at her, pulling her head back, grabbing her head and it was for no reason at all." My god, who is this man? The lovable, fun-loving, clowning Gazza or a savage deranged maniac?

And this was not all. There was much more of such incredible behaviour beyond Gazza's family, that shocked the world. In the October of 1994, as he emerged for the World Cup qualifier at Wembley, Norweigian TV crew asked him for a message for their viewers. Gazza replied, "F....Off"

The following January he was being interviewed on Italian TV before a match. Gazza, in the middle of the conversation belched so loudly that not only was he fined, but questions were asked about him in the Italian parliament. Some method to stay in the news.

In 1994, he was accused of hitting a photographer while shopping in Rome. And in April, the same year, he lost his temper, during a flight home and threw drinks over a nearby photographer and a reporter.

And the list goes on and on. After having admitted that was routinely beating up his wife, Sheryl, in May 1996, he was accused of kicking two TV sets and causing pound 5000 damage while celebrating his 29th birthday on the flight home from a pre-Euro '96 tour of Hong Kong.

And then two months later, while on honeymoon in Hawaii, he was accused of throwing a brick at a photographer, and bruising his face.

What's wrong with him? And more importantly, what kind of impact is he having



and then at a drop of a hat he can become a goalscoring hero. Picture shows him having a dig at reporters after scoring a gem of a goal against Scotland in Euro '96 Gazza is enacting his drunken exploits on a Cathay Pacific flight with a teammate.

on the game followed by millions of hero-worshipping youngsters?

Though some football officials, especially the top brass of Gascoigne's club Rangers tried to focus solely on his on-field indiscretions ---which often proved intolerable and brought him harsh punishment—privately they too had to admit the moral implications of his domestic situation could not be ignored A sporting hero does not impress his fans just by his on-field achievements but when he becomes an idol his influence spreads beyond the realm of his sport to life in general, where people want to follow him, emulate him like an exemplary figure And what examples our hero has been setting. While his wife and pressmen were taking the brunt of his violence off the field his on-field arrogance and intolerance were bringing him stern warnings from his club bosses. His assault on Ajax Amsterdam player Winston Bogarde and the subsequent ordering off proved intolerable to Rangers top bosses and his misdemeanour in the Champions League game brought Gazza a stiff fine. And now the new England coach Glenn Hoddle has been put under tremendous pressure to tell Gascoigne that it is all over as far as playing for England is concerned. The English Football Association chief Keith Wiseman has already been in touch with Hoddle a number of times on the Gazza issue, and the media recommend that if Wiseman is to retain moral authority within football his instruction has to be af you don titell Gascoigne that his services are no longer wanted then I will

There of course are few dissenting voices like Jack Charlton who signed Gazza as a professional for Newcastle urging Hoddle not to bring about the end of Gascoigne's soccer career but ironically the revulsion caused by Gazza's on and off the field violence has spread even among his fans the majority of whom is now dismayed that Rangers should publicly throw a protective blanket around the errant midfielder. Many among them are saying Gazza should be kicked out of Scottish football.

Are we then watching here the self-demolition of Paul Gascoigne?

STOP PRESS!

At the time of going to press, it was announced that Gascoigne had been chosen to play for England in their World Cup qualifier against Georgia The announcement has given rise to nationwide outrage

The Alirounders

Futsal and the outdoor game, football are obviously very closely related and demand many of the same basic skills. Yet, in most countries at the top level, indoor specialists are beginning to develop who never or rarely take part in a competitive outdoor game. Out of the 900 players who were selected by their countries for the 1990 and 1994 World Cups, only six all-Americans, Clavijo, Murray, Ramos, Trittschuh, Vermes and Windieschmann have also taken part in an Indoor World Championship.

The real man for all seasons is the hard working American midfielder, Tab Ramos. He represented the USA Under-23 years side in the 1988 Olympics, 1990 and 1994 World Cups and 1989 and 1992 Indoor World Championship. In all these tournaments he was a regular first team choice.

Futsal World Meet

FOR football buffs it is fiesta time once more. The most popular event on earth, the FIFA World Cup is still two years away (slated for the Summer of 1998 in France). However round the corner is the 3rd Futsal World Championship. Now what is Futsal? It is not some exotic Spanish version of football. No way, it is exciting, fast, thrilling to watch the indoor five-a-side football. It is all action stuff with the rules so designed. to help the game keep going. Four years ago, a rule was amended to ensure that time wasting was eliminated. It is like basketball, 40 minutes of actual action time. There were some well-contested matches, like when Spain beat Iran 9-6 in a memorable bronze medal match in the 2nd FIFA Indoor World Championship at Hong Kong in 1992 which lasted an amazing 96 minutes.

The latest edition is to be known as the Futsal World Championship 1996.

Man for all seasons: hardworking US midfielder Tab Remos is a regular first team choice

EURO SOCCER ROUNDUP

Some interesting titbits from the world of soccer

So Futsal is the international designation for indoor football and FIFA's way of differentiating between the two games. This event is scheduled from November 24 to December 12, in sunny Spain. The top two from each group will qualify for the second league phase. The semi-finals are scheduled for Dec.6 at Barcelona and the final is two days later at the same city. Of the 16 participants, six are from Europe. three from Asia, three from South America, two from Central America (political rivals the USA and Cuba) and one each from Africa (Egypt) and Australasia (Australia).

The groupings are as follows: Group A: Spain, Australia, Ukraine and Egypt.

Group B: Russia, China, Argentina and Holland.

Group C: USA, Malaysia, Italy and Uruguay.

Group D. Brazıl, Iran, Cuba and Belgium.

FIFA started thinking about a World Indoor Football Championship in the Eighties. The basic motivation for such an idea stemmed from the success of the indoor game especially in the USA, where indoor leagues outstripped the classic outdoor game in terms of public appeal. However, American indoor football was a game with a difference. Non-stop action

was ensured by maintaining either walls or boards on the sidelines and near the backline. The ball thus never went out of play. Skilful players even evaded opponents by a deft one-two, with the wall.

However, a section within FIFA were against such a move, as they felt it would devalue the game of football. Indoor football was slowly and gradually formalised. FIFA spurned the concept of non-stop action of boards and instead retained the idea of the ball going out of play over the widelines or behind the goal. This need to keep the ball in play compelled players to be more accurate in their passing. It also reduced the risk of injury.

The 1st FIFA Indoor World Football Championship was held in Holland in 1989, as part of the Dutch Football Association 's 100th anniversary programme. Brazil once again capitalised on their incomparable natural talent to emerge champions. Brazil beat hosts Holland 2-1 in the final.

In the 2nd FIFA Indoor World Football Championship, Brazil beat the USA in the final. The matches were more exciting and goals rained in from all angles, 307 goals in 40 matches.

Spain '96 promises to be a real grouped with mighty England and cracker. Sixteen teams will contest the Poland. In their opening ties, Italy

crystal trophy in the fortnight of matches, with Brazil going for a hat-trick.

Sack For Sacchi?

TALIAN manager Arrigo Sacchi sent 156 million Italians into mourning as his gifted team tumbled out of Euro'96 in the preliminary phase. Italy favoured to reach the final, came third in group C and could not progress. Sacchi was villified and castigated for this failure, particularly his odd selections. In the decisive last league match with Germany, which Italy needed to win to qualify for the quarter-finals of European Championships, he did not field his most creative player Allesandro del Piero. He rested live key players for the second match against the Czech Republic and had to face the consequence losing 1-2.

Sacchi is one of the highest paid coaches in the world, with an estimated salary of \$1 million per annum. The committed football fans of Italy expect results from such a highly-paid coach. After the Euro'96 blunders, there were further hiccups in the opening stages of the 1998 World Cup qualifiers. Italy are grouped with mighty England and Poland. In their opening ties, Italy



struggled to beat Moldova 3-1 and Georgia 1-0

Now the 'Tifosi' (fans) and papparazzi (scribes) are baying for his blood It is rumoured that Sacchi will be sacked by Christmas It will certainly not be Merry Christmas for the balding Sacchi The only silver

lining could be the golden handshake offered by the Italian Football Federation, as there are still three years of his contract left

Favourites to replace Sacchi are Cesare Maldını (father of the legendary left-back Paolo Maldini) and former Italian goalkeeper Dino

Arrigo Sacchi villified and castigated for his failure

Zoff Surprisingly, Sacchi, a highly successful and meticulous coach of A C Milan in their glory days of the late Eighties and early Nineties, neve achieved similar success with the national team. His constant chopping and changing of players also made him unpopular

Sacchi is probably paying the price of being an idealist He tried to chang the tactical pattern of Italian football He favoured all-action, committed players He seemed to dread flair players with strong individual temperaments Hence the strange omissions of Roberto Baggio Gianluca Vialli and Beppe Signori for Euro 96 Sacchi has always been pilloried for his over complex tactica schemes that stifle flair Half time computer analysis lengthy training camps extensive video analysis of opponents and regular medical tests were all part of Sacchi's scientific approach to training However they did not get him the results he wanted So now it seems curtains for Sacchi

Experts feel that whoever succeed: Sacchi will revert back to the old style defensive formation with emphasis on a sweeper packed defence and midfield and breakway tactics Sacch had opted for a flat back four and pressing tactics in midfield. He had certainly made Italy more committee to attack and hence exciting to watch During his tenure Italy has also become more committed Earlier Italian teams tended to crumble if they were trailing

Under Sacchi there have been numerous fightbacks including the Houdini like escape against Nigeria in the 1994 World Cup pre quarter finals (when Italy equalised in the closing minutes and won in extra time) It is felt that Zoff or Maldini wil revert to the battle of attrition game plans of yore They will also be judged by the results they achieve But Sacch has at least learnt that in internationa football it is not the style but the results that matter

Novy Kapadia

Fire The Bosses

C UBHASH SARCAR's article "Rusty Rustam" (Sportsworld 9-22 Oct, 96) pricisely dealt with the crazy whims of Akramov. But in the same breath the AIFF bosses must be condemned. Their liberal attitude allowed Akramov to wield such supreme power. When as talented a footballer as I.M. Vijayan was ignored for the SAARC Games in 1995, the AIFF should have intervened. Instead. they watched from the fence as their country was being denied the services of its best footballers. Akramov was clearly vindictive towards Debashish Pal Choudhury, Aloke Das and Hemanta Dora, none of whom were in the first eleven in the first match in Doha. It's sheer madness to see an obscure. untested Feroze under the bar ahead of the seasoned Hemania Dora.

One must challenge the toreign coach's credibility when guys like Tushar Rakshit and Tejinder Kumar were not even in the reckoning. His theory: training, matchplay and recovery is totally out of vouge in the present scenario. How come the same batch of footballers train, play and recover when they are grilled between club football and conditioning camps?

Selector Balaram, who recently quit his post, narrated how Basudeb Mandal, pleaded for reprieve—being completely exhausted in the camp. Only Das Munshi and Łaksmannan still advocate Akramov's novel plans which have seen India go down in the FIFA rankings. In fact, no matter what the connoisseurs think, the power-greedy bosses will never relent. To them the country's pride come second to their own interest.

CHINMOY ROY, Calcutta



Vinod Kambli should take some advice from the Little Master

On Kambli

HOUGH I am not a diehard fan of Vinod Kambli, yet, I feel sorry for the guy whenever something bad is being written about him.

It's a fact that Kambli's steely resolve, his flashes of brilliance and fighting spirit are nowhere to be seen. But let's not presume

that his honeymoon with fame and fortune is over

May be a word or two with our Little Master would be of help, may be some sittings with sports psychologists could do him some good. But in any case we wouldn't like to see Kambli heading towards oblivion. Here's wishing Vinod luck--lots of it.

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack

Poor Soccer

HE standard of Indian tootball has been going downhill day by day with the current Indian rating in world soccer lying beyond 100th position. In 1960, the Indian soccer team played brilliantly in the Rome Olympics and also went on to win the gold medal of

the 1962 Jakarta Asian Games.

Besides, these two outstanding performances, India's performance at the international arena is indeed dismal. I feel the concerned authorities should set up football academies all over the country to groom the young talented teenagers.

PRAHLAD AGARWALA, Nadia

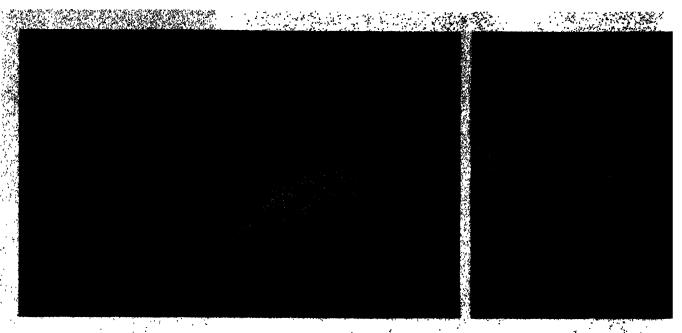


SYDNEY 2000

NO MORE FUNINGAMES'

The message on the picture is self explanatory. After a lot of hype and hoopla, the Atlanta Games did not live up to expectations. Sydney promises to learn from the former's mistakes

The city of Sydney is taking the task of hosting the Olympics very seriously. The Committee had learned vital lessons from Atlanta '96 and is making sure that they do not repeat the mistakes of the latter



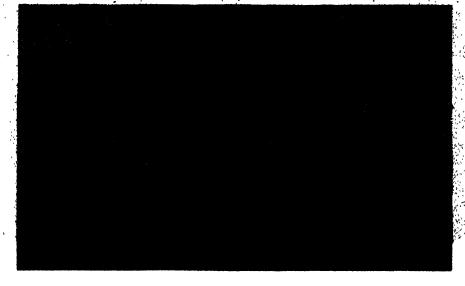
Top:

Top right:

The jubilant crowd welcoming home the successful Sydney 2000 Bid Committee

Right:

An artist's impression of the proposed indoor stadium



BY SUJIT BHAR

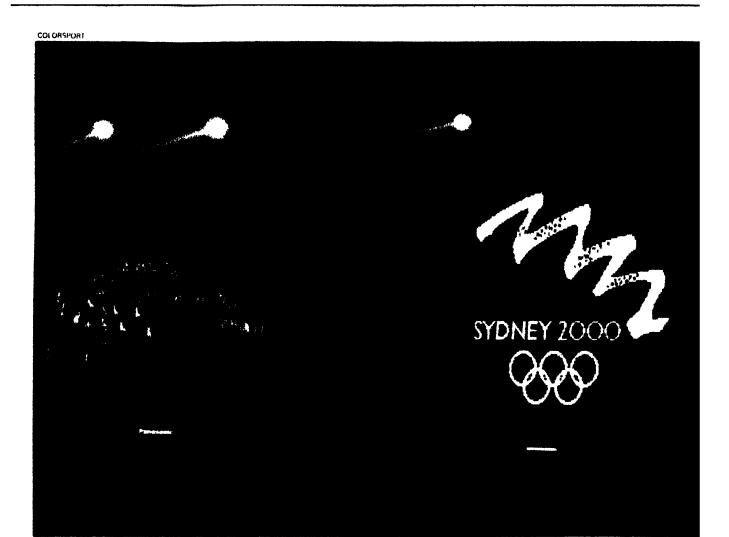
HE Olympic Games today are the biggest congregation of human beings, outside wars. The Atlanta Games accommodated 15,000 journalists, nearly 10,000 athletes, an incredibly large number of volunteers and other workers and more than 70 lakh visitors over the period of the Games. The organisational aspect, thus, requires modern management techniques and total government support. The very breadth of an Olympics Games' activity today is

enough to boggle the mind.

That Centennial Games earned a somewhat bad name in its organisation aspect can be attributed to the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games' (ACOG) overzealous effort in projecting a totally corporate image, and in trying to make its finances look more like one in a corporate balance sheet. The role of government agencies cannot and should not be overlooked, and more so for the role of the general public who revel in its festive atmosphere. And that however much the internationalisation of the Games, ultra nationalistic feelings among

participating countries cannot be discounted in arranging for an event of this magnitude.

Accepted that the Barcelona Games had an over \$ 8 billion budget compared to less than \$ 2 billion for Atlanta. But one must consider the fact that the money in Barcelona was also utilised in developing basic infrastructure like its international airport, while Atlanta already had most of its infrastructure in place. The internationally renowned Hartsfield Airport is not only the busiest in the world, it is also capable of handling sudden boosts in activity. But the fact that Barcelona was a far more



successfully organised, though not as big an Olympic Games, does not say much about the genuineness of the American effort this year

Atlanta, in many ways, was not particularly suitable for such an event. The venues were spread out too far and transport was inadequate. More than the blast at the Centennial Park, which unfortunately took up more space than it deserved in the international media, it was the sparse transport facilities that spoiled the ACOG's efforts. Athletes failed to reach competition venues on time, missing their events and mediamen failed to catch on to important events.

Housing was another ill-attended chapter. The mighty hue and cry over a paucity of apartments drove rentals through the roof despite there actually being an adequate number of rooms available. That International Olympic Committee (IOC) president.

The organisers hope to to maintain a ceiling of 10,000 athletes for the Sydney 2000 Summer Games. But the IOC wants to raise the number by several hundred

Juan Antonio Samaranch, in his closing ceremony speech, did not qualify the Atlanta Games as the "greatest" as he has always done, says much about the 'success' of the Games

The horror through the days was transport. The tennis centre, where India's Leander Paes showed his prowess and from where he brought India's only medal was at Stone. Mountain Park, it was nearly 90 km from downtown Atlanta and took about an hour and a half to reach. But if that was all the problem it would have been within acceptable limits. Often transport would not be available at all, for hours on end.

Added to that were untrained drivers from states far off who had little idea as to the location of

competition venues, often getting lost and finally landing up late or at a totally different venue. Athletes on one occasion had to hijack a bus to get themselves to a competition venue after being told that there was no transport available. Drivers (or 'operators', as they were called) often stepped off the bus as duty hours got over, flatly refusing to do even an hour's overtime.

The Olympic Stadium and the massive Georgia Dome are no more that a kilometre apart. Yet, if one wished to attend both, one had to go around in circles, through Expressways and up and down feeder lines and through security checks and finally, through extensive baggage checks. By that time, possibly, the event of the day could well have been over. Those who were obtuse enough to try and approach venues in their cars had a harrowing time as they

were stopped way off venues and when they were frantically searching for a parking lot, private vendors offered hourly service for as much as \$ 15 an hour.

Security was definitely at the top of everyone's mind, Atlanta being the first Modern Olympics without a single boycotting nation. The problem was in mixing corporate consumerist strategy with multiple inlays of government control. The two were not amalgamated.

In Sydney, in the year 2000, organisers are trying to rectify this aspect. A team from Australia visited different sites in Atlanta during the Games and gathered first-hand information about the glitches and hitches that the mega-activity incorporated. The Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games' (SOCOG) over 100 observers were headed by SOCOG chief executive Mal Hemmerling. He said it was "one opportunity ... to understudy a Summer Games."

Susan Graham, a journalist who was part of the team, said she had learned a lot from Atlanta, and that Sydney's plan of "a connected city for 15 disciplines plus the Village and Press Centre etc., spread over 760 hectares will be a great improvement on Atlanta." The committee has been operative for over two years now, but it was in Atlanta that they really got a feel of the magnitude of problems.

The 2000 Games will be held in early spring, cutting out the oppressive heat that Atlanta witnessed. That would be the starting block. The SOCOG's budget for starting the Games is almost \$ 2 billion, actually a little more than Atlanta's. The amount is large because, for the first time, the committee will meet the cost of round-trip airfares for all accredited athletes and officials for the Games as well as for sporting equipment including horses, yachts, rowing shells, canoes and kayaks. That is indeed a tall order.

The coup de grace should be the interconnected city that will cut down transportation bottlenecks and costs.

Recently, Olympic inspectors from the IOC visited the planned sites and said that Sydney would be able to avoid the kind of problems seen in Atlanta.

Commission chairman Jacques Rogge listed various problems, however, including transport, accommodation, and even the possibility that indigenous aborigines or other ethnic minorities could try to "take the Games hostage." "It's not a honeymoon, but the problems we've analysed can all be overcome," Rogge said.

The total number of spectators is expected to be much lower than in Atlanta, but hundreds of thousands of a model of environmental awareness

Mr Samaranch said that two sports -taekwondo and the triathlonwere added to Sydney's events and that the IOC plans to increase the number of women's teams in field hockey and handball.

The increases could alarm Sydney organisers, who have expressed concern about the size of the Olympics and insisted they want to restrict the number of competitors to a maximum of 10,000. But Mr Samaranch said the IOC's host city contract with Sydney stipulates the participation of "at least 10,000

The proposed Olympic Village will be



people will travel every day to the western suburb of Homebush, where most of the Olympic venues, including a new 110,000-seat stadium, are being built.

On the busiest day of the Games, the second Saturday, up to half a million people are expected to use either buses, ferries or a new train link to Homebush. However, while the Sydney organisers hoped to maintain a ceiling of 10,000 athletes for the Games, the International Olympic Committee recently said it would raise the number by several hundred. "Maybe we will need 400, 500 or 600 more," IOC president Samaranch has been quoted as saying, adding "it was unlikely any sport would be dropped from the Games."

competitors."

There were 26 sports on the Atlanta programme. The IOC must still decide whether beach volleyball and women's softball, which were introduced on a provisional basis in Atlanta, should be retained in Sydney

Some officials have urged the IOC to eliminate some events to keep the Games from becoming unmanageable. Golf, bowling, surfing and even ballroom dancing are just some of the nearly two dozen sports seeking approval as future OLympic

Problems keep growing, and time is already ripe to try solving them before it all comes crashing down on the organisers in the year 2000, like it did on Atlanta.

HAT Steffi Graf told controversial Chilean Marcelo Rios she thought of him: "You have a great forehand, but I don't like your hair."

WHAT Frank Ofori, playing for host Ghana, said to Britain's Luke Milligan, playing his first Davis Cup tie in July 1996, when Ofori won the pre-match coin toss: "You serve. And I will break you."

UMBER of tennis players that Peter Burwash claims his tennis management company—whose 85 pro stati with 50 sites in 23 countries—has taught in the past 20 years: 4 million.

THNIC heritage of Pete Sampras: 75% Greek and 25% Jewish.

HAT some of the German media shouted at Steffi Graf during the 1996 U.S.Open: "Steffi, how can you play tennis when your father is on trial?"

NE thing that Monica Seles hasn't done but would love to try: Skydiving

ORMER star player that Chris Evert recommends as a coach for Arantxa Sanchez Vicario because he "could help her go to the next level": John McEnroe.

HAT Navratilova's recent ads with former movie star Doris Day are denouncing; Steel-jaw animal traps.

TENNIS INDEX



Cosmopolitan magazine's "The Planet's Most Eligible Heartthrobs" list: MaliVai Washington and Luke and Murphy Jensen.

that world No.2 Michael Chang will use if he need to, according to Andre Agassi: 9.

HAT happened to John F. Kennedy Jr. while bycycling to a tennis lesson at Central Park in New York when he was 13: He was mugged by a cocaine addict.

day Mark Philippoussis sometimes does in the off-season; 1,000.

TUMBER of strokes that the second point of the 1978 French Open final between Bjorn Borg and Guillermo Vilas lasted: 94.

ATION with the most men players ranked in the top 85 in the world; Spain (13).

HERE Nick Bollettieri ranked himself among the tennis coaches in the world in his autobiography; No.1.

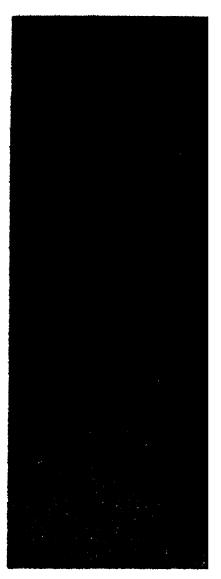
I OW the defense attorney explained the actions of Lyle and Erik Menendez during their eight-month trial for the brutal murder of their parents: "Too much tennis and not enough hugs."

PLAYER whose talent Gabriela Sabatini admires most: Martina Navratilova.



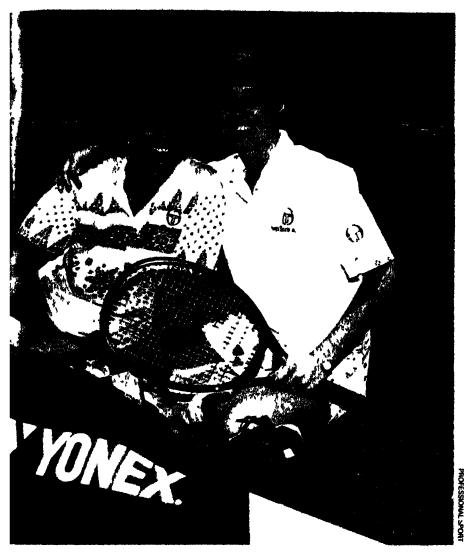
singles semifinalists at the 1996 U S.Open junior event that came from Europe 100 PLAYER who Ion Tiriac says should have won several Grand Siam titles: Henri Leconte





Campos, the best goalie in Major League Soccer "To play tennis with Steffi Graf"

RASON Daphne Deckers says her relationship with her beau, Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek, is so special: Because they rarely see each other, it's great when they do....Person who spends time with Deckers and even wears Krajicek's clothes, according to Style, a British magazine, is Deckers' ex-husband



share of the US dollar share of the market for tennis rackets Wilson held in 1987, according to NPD Smart Research: 14.9...And percent of the US dollar share of the market for tennis rackets Wilson held in 1995: 47.8.

sport among the 25,057 teenagers (aged 15-18) in 41 countries around the world, according to a 1996 survey by DMB&B ad agency: Tennis (62%), behind basketball (71%) and soccer (67%).

UMBER of past and current U.S.Open singles champions that 16-year-old Martina Hingis beat in 1993: 3 (Graf, Sanchez Vicario and Sabatini).

WHAT Andre Agassi slept with as a kid: His tennis racket.

American entrants in the boys' and girls' 18 singles draws at the 1995 Orange Bowl who lost in the first round: 24.

1970s world-class player Jeff Borowiac used to bring when he played pro tournaments: 1.

EASON why Lindsay
Davenport's Fed Cup
teammates don't like to
pratice with her: She hits the
ball extremely hard.



shots SAM, the Sports Action Machine that costs \$25,000, can pump out: More that 1000.

HERE a poll of experts ranked Bollettieri in a recent *Tennis Week* story: In the honorable mention category following the top 10 coaches.

Compiled by Paul Fein

Sampras and Graf are miles ahead of competition. They play to win and both a

Old men forget: yet all shall be forgot But he will remember with advantages What feats he did that day

S a tennis star, Pete Sampras has about all the celebrity appeal of a college student out on his first date. (Ditto Jim Courier.) It's his talent with a racket that makes him a much-respected but not beloved champion.

Sampras exploded onto the big-time tennis scene with his "Cinderella" 1990 U.S.Open triumph. He has the right stuff: terrific athletic ability, an even temperament to cope with the inevitable ups and downs of the pro game, excellent stroke technique, and an extremely clear focus on what he wants to accomplish, namely win enough Grand Slam titles to achieve tennis immortality. He admires the fiercely competitive but sporting Australian champions of yesteryear, and that has endeared him to many fans, especially traditionalists. His effortless power game has produced three Wimbledon, three U.S.Open and one Australian Open crowns; yet amazingly enough, Sampras has rarely been gossipfodder and has maintained his wholesome working-class reputation.

Although Sampras did a pizza commercial with John McEnroe "to show the lighter side of me," he confided that "I want to let my racket do the talking. I thought the way that McEnroe and Jimmy Connors acted on the court was embarrassing. I didn't want a reputation like that. I have always wanted to present myself as a class act, not lose my temper, not rub it into anyone if I beat them. Just go out there and win."

Actor Tom Hanks, like Sampras, has



COLORSPORT

(Top)Pete Sampras is a class act by himself, while (right) Steffi Graf is the empress who thrives in adversity

a genuinely honest and down-to-earth reflection on his acting career. "What I like about what I do is that I honestly take a job because I feel it's right for me and hope that they will let me do it. There's nothing else attached to it. I go, 'Gosh, this sounds like fun, I hope I can convince them that I'm the man for the job.' And after that I just do it."

Both Sampras and Hanks have carved out their reputations by being the best at what they do. They have consistently produced quality results, and their fans respect and admire them for that. Uncharacteristically for celebrities at the top, they are rarely

elled by the intense urge to gain immortality in tennis



PROFESSIONAL SPORT

hyped or promoted excessively. Their aversion to self-promotion and controversy further enhances their reputation for providing substance rather than style.

Similarly, Steffi Graf and actress Emma Thompson have also earned their reputations by superior performances. Graf, who calls herself "a reluctant celebrity" because of her shyness and penchant for privacy, recently captured her seventh Wimbledon title (for her 20th Grand Slam singles and 100th overall tournament title). Except for Seles's 1991-92 reign as No.1, Graf has incredibly dominated women's tennis for nearly ten years. Possessing devastating power, terrific foot speed and a relentless will to win, Graf has

BY PAUL FEIN

joined the pantheon of all-time greats at 27. Former archrival Navratilova, in fact, rates her "the greatest all-surface tennis player in history" because she has won at least four crowns at each of the four Grand Slam events.

Thompson has proved comparably versatile, achieving excellence both on the stage and in films. Her Academy Award win as a screenwriter for "Sense and Sensibility" showed that her talents were not limited to acting. As a first-time screenwriter, in addition to playing the leading role, she helped the film receive six Golden Globe Award nominations.

That Graf and Thompson overcame considerable adversity make their accomplishments all the more remarkable. Besides being one of the most injured and ill champions ever, Graf has been distracted and distressed by her father's scandals. "Physically, it just seems amazing to me to come through like that," she said after winning Wimbledon this year. "I don't know how I do it. I just keep on doing it."

Thompson, at age 22, had to overcome the death of her father. Of that difficult period, she recalls that "As the eldest I had to cope. I wanted to help run things." A deeply private person, Thompson also endured harsh treatment from gossip columnists who reported her breakup with her husband, Kenneth Branagh. She said, "I don't read the gossip. It's uncomfortable. I will no longer answer those questions about my personal life. I think it's extremely rude. I would not dream of asking someone I didn't know about their personal life, and I expect the same respect."

In the next issue: The Brave And The Inspirational



HAT would you expect if you were an athlete and won laurels for your country? And what would you expect if you returned to your country after winning six medals where it matters most—the Olympics? Even if you wouldn't expect your weight in 24 karat gold, it would only be reasonable to expect good living conditions and surely some financial incentives and maybe a good job. Now, that is what one would expect. But as they say, there are times in life when you do not get what you expect, or even deserve.

Ace Russian gymnast, Alexei Nemov realised this the hard way and at a very crucial juncture in his life. He was one of those under-rated heroes at the Atlanta Olympics who never really got his share of press even though he won six medals for Russia at the Centennial Games. That he did not speak and understand English could have been a deterrent, but Nemov was not unduly bothered. His job was to win medals for his country, and that is exactly what he did. Every time the 20-year-old from the city of Tolyatti mounted the pommel horse he would set the crowds cholesterol levels soaring. His elegance, grace and his beautifully sculpted psychique won him a lot of fans in America and had the American ladies drooling over him as 'sexy Alexei'. Sure Alexei was sexy, but he also stuck to his professional brief. That is the reason why he kept getting sackloads of fan mail at his home in Moscow after he returned from the Games.

Home? No, actually make that a ramshackle room in a dormitory in a dreary suburb of Moscow where the paint is peeling and the plaster is coming off the walls. That is what serves as home to one of Russia's greatest gymnasts in recent times. Yet, Nemov's is not an isolated case. Today, when the rouble has slumped and the economy and political scenario of the erstwhile Soviet Union

Six medals at the Olympics, but Alexi Nemov is yet to benefit from the hard work that he has put into his sport

RUSSIAN REGRESSION

Once a powerful sporting nation, sport in the erstwhile Soviet Union is degenerating rapidly

BY K.O. JACOB

are in shambles, Russia's sportspersons are ignored totally by their countrymen and even politicians.

Nemov for example had been promised 100,000 pounds and a new flat by the sporting officials for his performance at the Olympics but nothing has materialised so far. A theory doing the rounds in Moscow is that after the Cold War got over, Russia had lost the zeal and vigour it once had. During those days money would be pumped in liberally into Olympic programmes because at that point of time the Russians had a passion—to be one up on the Americans in everything, sports included. Marına Kalmykova, an administrator with the Russian Swimming Federation summed up the total picture when she said, "It's a bit like the Russian space programme. In the beginning we all got terribly excited about the cosmonauts. They were heroes. After a while, it was like, another launch, so what? It's a bit like that with sports now."

Russian sports persons have realised that these days Olympic glory fades very fast in Russia. As a wrestling official to the Russian team said, "We do not have any national pride anymore." In fact, Nemov was not the first to realise that in poverty stricken Russia even Olympic heroes are

treated as ordinary mortals and sometimes even worse. Alexander Popov who won two gold medals in Atlanta, almost paid with his life after he was stabbed through the lung and kidney after an altercation with a watermelon vendor in a Moscow street. Initially the doctors were sceptical about Popov's recovery but now they are hoping for limited success. Popov's stabbing sent ripples of alarm throughout the sporting fraternity in Russia and everyone was asking the same question: if this was the treatment meted out to the legendary swimmer then what would be our fate?

The problem does not end there. The majority of Russian sportsmen

Popov almost paid with his life for the success that has come to him



spent a significant portion of their youth concentrating totally on sport as a result of which they do not find time for education or any vocational training. As a result they sometimes realise, albeit very late in life, that there is no other option open to them. Life they learn has to be sports or sports related. Nemov himself admitted, "I'm just doing my job. I get sick of it sometimes. Your brain just goes numb. But I don't know anything else."

The problem is compounded by the fact that the Russian government is pumping in less money into sport than ever before. The Olympic Federation which operates from its dingy headquarters at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow, has received only a third of the money it had asked for in this year's federal budget. To say that the sporting glory so often associated with Russia would now be relegated to the history books is putting it very mildly. In fact, sport in Russia has never been in such a sorry state before. Svetlana Styrkina, the coach of Svetlana Masterkova the winner of the 800 and the 1,500mts at Atlanta put things in the right perspective when she opined, "It's very, very difficult for young athletes now. I fear it will only be the children of the super rich or the super-talented sportsmen and women who will get the backing for training."

It probably is a little too early in the day to write the epitaph of one of the best sporting nations on planet Earth, but if Nemov's and Popov's cases are pointers then it won't be long before one sits down to write the obituary of Russia's excellence and supremacy in world sport.



HORSING AROUND!

With increased television coverage and enhanced sponsorship by prominent business houses, polo in India is ready to cash in. NOVY KAPADIA analyses ILVIO BERLUSCONI, the TV magnate and president of renowned A.C. Milan once said, "The future of sport is TV sports. Any sport which does not adapt to the demands of television cannot survive." Berlusconi's predictions have a ring of truth. His Darwinian prophecies of survival of the fittest, has been accepted by many sports. Several international sports federations have tinkered and tampered with the rules, to make their sport more exciting and presentable on TV.

Football and hockey have for several years abandoned time consuming replays and have opted for the penalty shoot-out to decide drawn matches. In football, FIFA has since 1994, decided on the 'golden goal' rule in extra-time (the match ceases as

soon as a team scores a goal). Hockey is experimenting with a no off-side version, to ensure more goals and greater thrills on TV. In tennis, we have the tie-breaker, in cricket, the limited overs/one-day game has left the traditional five-day Test cricket in the shade.

The latest to adapt to the changing times, is the sport of polo. In the years gone by, polo was hailed as the sport of kings and noblemen. Adhiraj Singh, an international polo player and bronze medallist in the Three Day Event at the 1986 Seoul Asiad, explains, "In polo, for each of the four chukkers you need a fresh horse. So in days gone by, only maharajahs or officers from the Army could play this demanding sport." Polo was an elegant sport but had an elitist image. To give the sport a more egalitarian flavour and make it more exciting on the small screen, arena polo was started in the USA in the Eighties.

Polo players in the West are often inactive during the long winter months. So they started playing indoors to keep in touch with the game, in an arena exclusively designed for the purpose. From these experimental beginnings, emerged the sport of arena polo It is now the rage in the USA, Argentina and England. Nowadays, in their off-season, professional polo players actively participate in arena polo.

As Adhiraj Singh said, "Arena polo is a much more visual sport and is very popular on TV. Also it is easy to follow as the action takes place in front of you. So you have larger crowds for arena polo which has led to a rapid growth of sponsorship for this new sport."

The gospel of arena polo is more playing time, with fewer horses. There are only three people in a team (compared to four in outdoor polo). If played indoors, there are only two in a team. This translates into more action. The arena is also restricted, just 50 x 100 yards, so the TV cameras find it easy to focus on the game. The dimensions of an outdoor polo field (200 x 300 yards), prevents the game from being a very visual sport.

Also the chances of injury are much less. The solid, plastic polo ball can cause excruciating pain, in case of a blow. In contrast, an arena polo ball is made of leather with a bladder and is much less painful on impact. On the small screen, it is also a more visible object as it is twice the size of a normal polo ball. In India, this ball is imported from England but as Adhiraj Singh says, "Once the demand increases, it can be easily manufactured in India."

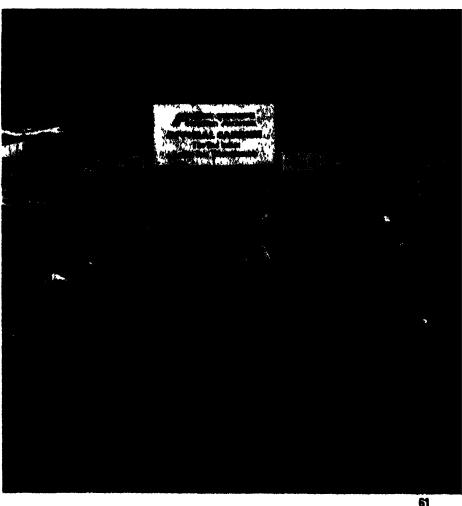
Arena polo is also much safer. Speed is not such a great factor here. The ground is fenced by wooden boards or walls, five feet high, perched on which there is a wire meshing six feet high. The strain on the horses is also much less. In outdoor polo, each chukker is of seven and a half minutes, whereas in arena polo, the duration of the chukker is for five minutes. Again outdoor polo requires a well maintained grassy turf, but arena polo can be played on mud and

rough turf.

Adam Lindemann, secretary of the US Polo Association, describes arena polo, "as bringing polo to the public." He says, that it is a cheaper, immensely watchable, easy to televise and as competitive as outdoor polo. "Arena Polo is the best way to get introduced to the game without having to file for bankruptcy,"said Lindemann. The exorbitant expenses of outdoor polo, the large, lush green, playing fields and majestic horses are avoided in arena polo. Also in outdoor polo, the ball often drifts to a distance and sometimes even the horses seem far away. In arena polo, the action is confined to a limited area in front of the spectators.

The pioneering efforts of Adhiraj Singh has got arena polo established in India. The inaugural national

The final of the second Arena Polo National Championship between SAIL and Jindal in which the former won



VARIETY



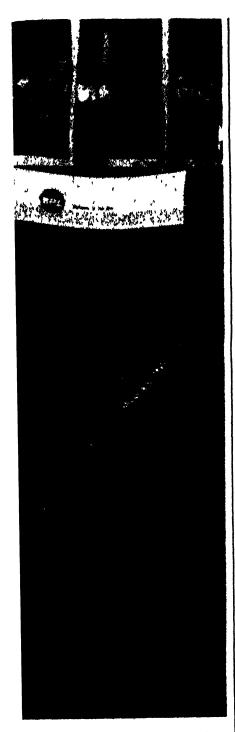
championships were staged in Delhi last year. Within a year, the popularity of this sport has grown by leaps and bounds. Corporate sponsorship also has come into this relatively new sport. Six teams participated in the second Indian Arena Polo Championships, sponsored by Coca Cola and held on the grounds outside the Nehru stadium at Delhi. The significant feature of this

championship is that four of the six teams were sponsored by business houses.

Adhiraj Singh views this shift from the Army to the business houses as a healthy, encouraging and positive sign. Historically, since Independence, the Army patronised polo and equestrian sports in India. However given the circumstances of India's security environment and the

Army's modernisation programme their involvement in polo has reduced. So it is now a period of transition for equestrian sports. The role of torch-bearer has passed from the Army to the more prosperous civilian establishments.

Adhiraj Singh says, "This process took place in the West some four decades ago, but in India it is happening now." Mahindra and



Midfield play in the nationals, aponsored by Coca Cola

Mahindra, Jindal, Bharat Petroleum and Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) sponsored teams for the second Arena Polo Championships. They took care of the player's expenses.

The Delhi Equestrian Polo Association (DEPA) under the able guidance of Adhiraj Singh and the

efficient, charming, dynamic Yashodra Raje Scindia made some innovatory sponsorship deals. Yashodra Scindia explains, "Sponsors were offered a package deal. They could either sponsor a tournament or a team. The Leela Group of Hotels thus sponsored the three-day DEPA Cup. held before the nationals which were sponsored by Coca Cola. Four companies sponsored teams and in return their banners were prominently displayed in the arena and they got a colour page advertisement in the brochure. As TV coverage was adequate, the sponsors were happy with the mileage." The winning trio, the Godara brothers and Vishal Singh representing SAIL got Rs.20,000 each, adequate prize the highest ever in any money form of polo in India.

Each participating player, was provided a substantial sum of money (amount not disclosed) as an incentive by DEPA. The organisers also arranged the sponsor for each team. To increase competition, three English professionals James Le Hardy, Tim Healy and Barnie Webb were flown in to participate. It was the off-season for these English professionals and DEPA paid for their air fare and expenses.

About future plans, Adhiraj Singh says, "In the future, we want to increase the prize money for arena polo tournaments, so that even first round losers can earn some money. This will encourage the trend towards professionalism which will lead to improvement of standards and enhanced sponsorship. We want to follow the path of Indian golf, where increased sponsorship has led to the emergence of stars and role models like Jeev Milkha Singh, Gaurav Ghei and Ali Sher. We also want to increase the number of arena polo tournaments in India, next year to spread the popularity of this very watchable and exciting sport."

At present, there are five major professional players in India,
Dhruvpal Godara and Manupal
Godara, the Kalaan brothers—Uday and Angad—and Sameer Suhag.
Manupal with a handicap of 15 has

the highest handicap amongst Indian players. These five make a decent living playing as professionals in India and abroad. As is typical of polo players abroad, these five play both outdoor polo and arena polo. The Indian polo pros are also happy that the new sport of arena polo is being marketed well as it means extra income for them.

The day after the finals of the Arena Polo Nationals, Titan promoted their range of upmarket watches Tanishq by sponsoring play-off matches between the English professionals and the Indian players. This was known as the Tanishq All Stars Champions Cup in which the Godara brothers Manupal and Dhruvpal emerged champions. Another slick marketing feat was a lucky draw for all the spectators on each match day. This was done to increase spectator involvement in the sport.

At the moment, Indian polo is on the take-off stage, with increased TV coverage and enhanced sponsorship. Adhiraj Singh won the Arjuna Award in 1991 for his zealous, painstaking work in promoting equestrian sports. The 35-year-old Major in the Indian Army, quit the safety of an established service in 1995 and plunged into the uncertain world of marketing and sports promotion. He set up his own company Equi Sports (ES) to promote equestrian sports and polo in the country and ensure better sponsorship deals and TV coverage. The Equestrian Federation of India is creditably assisting his promotional ventures and he is given permission to stage arena polo events as well as international show jumping events.

Adhiraj along with Yashodra Raje Scindia and other lovers of horses and equestrian sports, set up Olympic Riding two years ago in Delhi, which ensures riding facilities at a resonable rate of Rs.25 for a session of 40 minutes. Night riding, organising meets for juniors, coaching clinics, foreign exposure and even riding for the disabled. Indian sports certainly needs more such dedicated organisers like Adhiraj Singh and Yashodra Raje Scindia.

A Classic Player!

In a nail-biting finish, Shiv Prakash won his second Classic golf title this season. A report

HE Classic tour instituted by ITC, has already witnessed the successful completion of their Bangalore event and the Classic Southern Indian Open in Madras The beat continued and this time the scene moved on to the Chandigarh Golf Club where the golf enthusiasts of that beautiful city were witness to a very exciting and sterling golf, the 3rd leg of the 1996-97 tour It was heartening new for the pros when the news spread that this year prize money of Rs 3 lakhs had been increased by an exorbitant Rs 2 lakhs

Big names in the Indian pro circuit like Ali Sher Shiv Prakash Vijay Kumar and Mukesh Kumar were in the fray And undoubtedly an exciting time was anticipated With all the top players spending hours honing their skills on the practice range a low-scoring tournament was certainly on the cards

Shiv Prakash a consistent player, won his second title of the season at Chandigarh and the top purse of



Shiv Prakesh receiving the cheque and trophy

Rs 83,300 safely secured in his bag. He annexed the coveted title in a nail-biting finish with a cumulative total of 289 leaving behind Vijay Kumar with a stroke's lead.

In his one over par round on the final day Shiv Prakash scored a birdie on the 3rd but went over on the 1st and 17th hole Vijay Kumar s uncharacteristic bogies on he 11th, 12th 14th and 15th hole, a late birdie on the penultimate hole and the ball hanging on the lip of the 18th hole made him lose by a narrow margin, thus pocketing the

prize of Rs 55,550 A distant third spot with a prize money of Rs 28,900 was shared by Basad Ali and Mukesh Kumar at 292 each

Vijay Kumar, began the tournament on a winning note with a two-under par 70, to pocket the best round of the day prize of Rs 6250 He scored four birdies but went over on the 8th and 12th hole to finish at 70 and thus held a slender one-stroke lead over Sanjay Kumar

Amongst the amateurs, Aman Behl of Delhi carded a four-over 76 with two birdies, thus leading the field by three strokes over Anitya Chand, K S Sibia and H S Kang

Basad Alı of Calcutta fired a two-under par 70 to come back from the wood and take a joint lead with Mukesh Kumar and Shiv Prakash at 146 each The best card of the day was, however, shared by Basad Alı and D K Verma Vıjay Kumar ran into a spot of bad luck and tied up at second place with Amit Chopra and Feroz Alı at 147 each Aman Behl with an aggregate total of 147 and a score of one-under par round, continued to lead among the amateurs, followed by H S Kang at 149

The penultimate day, brought Vijay Kumar into the reckoning with a 3 under 69 to share the top spot with Shiv Prakash at 216 each. The former again bagged the day's first round prize with an eagle fired on the par—five besides shooting 3 birdies. Shiv Prakash who became the epitome of constancy since the second day, carded a round of 70 which included three birdies. His final score of 74, while not very dramatic was enough to clinch the second Classic tour title of the year.

Aman Behl of Delhi, with an aggregate of 300, continued his winning streak to bag the amateur's

Calcutta's Basad Ali, who finished third in the Chandigarh leg, receives his share of the booty



title in the Classic Northern tour by a margin of 11 over K.S. Kang.

The best card of the final

day was bagged by Rohtak Singh and Sanjay Kumar both shooting a one-under par 71. Though Basad Ali showed signs of brilliance birdieing as many as five holes at the day's beginning, he however lost his grip going over on five holes. Mukesh had the only eagle of the day on the 2nd hole, but he too had lapses in his concentration going over on 2 holes.

His excellency Lt.
Gen.BKN Chibber
distributed the prizes to the
winners of the Classic
Northern Indian Open Golf
Tournament.

Chandigarh has been rightly termed the nurserv for young talent and this year's amateur competition has further strengthened this claim. Following this tournament will be remaining two regional events also carrying a prize money of Rs.5 lakhs in Pune from January 16 to 19 and in Calcutta from March 13 to 16.

The Classic Masters carrying a total purse of Rs.7,50,000 will be played from February 6 to 9.



previousling

EER and sport. Take these two things away from a dinky-die (read, hardcore) Aussie over the weekend and he would probably commit suicide. His XXXX beer (one of the most popular brands: Four X) in hand, the entire weekend is spent on the sofa watching sport. Oh, by the way the reason why the Aussies call their beer XXXX is because they can't spell BEER.

And this week — while I write—is the Melbourne Cup week. For those of you not in the know, that's a horse race, the Down Under version of the Epsom Derby. The race is advertised as "the race that stops a nation." And believe me, it does stop the nation. It is a public holiday in Melbourne and the rest of the country stops work (it's held on the first Tuesday in

November) and meet at different race courses to watch the race and have "a cup lunch". People are allowed to dress for work as they do in England for the Royal Ascot, fancy headgear and all.

And yet you would be surprised if I were to report that the race (as in the Melbourne Cup) is being over shadowed by a race of a different nature, one that has gripped the entire attention of this country. It's called "the race debate". A debate whether Australia should stop Asian immigrants from coming into the country. It began when one Independent Member of Parliament (Ms Pauline Hanson) openly spoke of how Australia was being "swamped" by Asiāns and how the immigration policy was responsible for

unemployment and all the other woes of the country. Surprisingly, in spite of her obvious racist remarks, she has received huge support from the public in spite of being politically isolated.

Now, you may ask, what is the point of such political background in a sports' magazine?Well the point is just this: Ms Hanson is now calling for new immigrants to take a stronger vow of allegiance to Australia: that may include supporting Australia whenever they play sport, even if it is against the migrants' home country. Someone like me will be required to swear that I will support Mark Taylor's team even if the opposition happens to be India. Which puts me in a predicament really; apart from the patriotism part, its funny that after supporting a losing India against Australia all these years, I am being forced to switch allegiance just when India is consistently getting the better of the Aussies. I guess one is destined to be rooting for the losing side. But on that night in Chandigarh when India put it across Mark Taylor's men to enter the final of the Titan Cup, I watched the live coverage of the match and failed hopelessly in Ms Hanson's immigration test.

It's funny that this cricket Test for immigrants first got publicity in England when one MP there wanted all immigrants to pass the "Cricket Test," before becoming a British citizen. The UK migrants had an unfair advantage, something I don't have. You see, more than half the English cricket team isn't English anyway, so its easy for migrants to support a multi-cultural cricket team.

It wouldn't be surprising if Ms
Hanson now ups her demands that we
support the England A team that is
currently touring Australia: After all
as many as seven of the squad
including the captain were born here
and cut their cricketing teeth here.

Finally, my question is, do we also have to support the Australian national soccer team? After all, the entire team, including the coach were all born outside Australia and are immigrants?

Andy O'Brien, Perth

CARTOON: ARTHUR CARDOZO

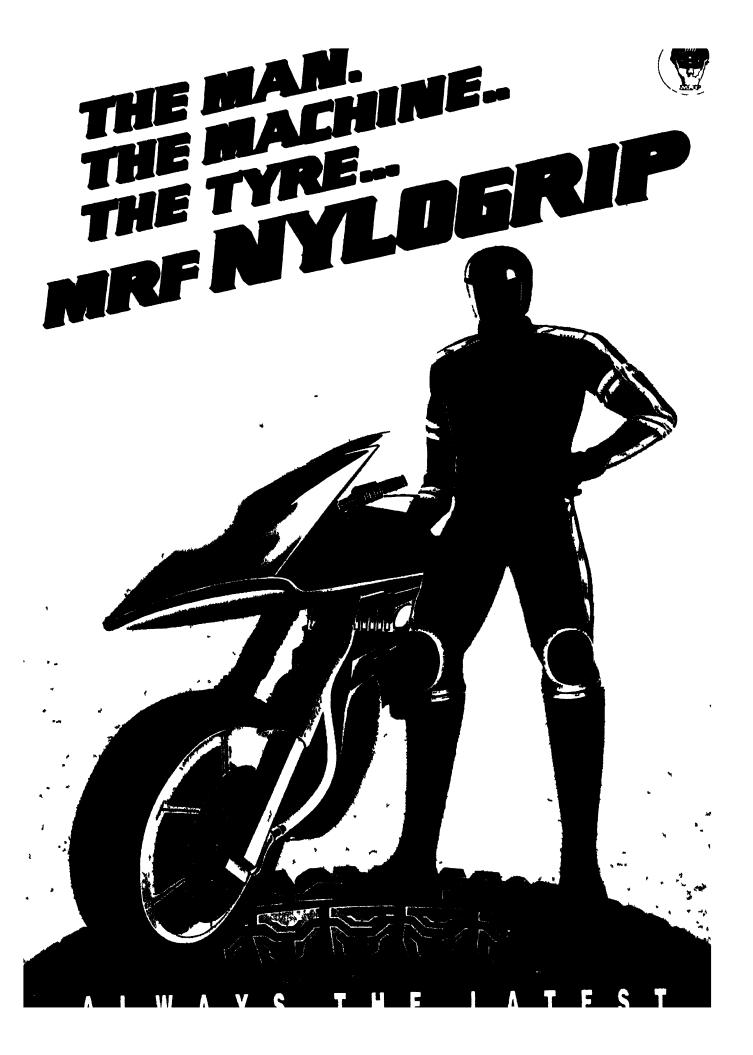


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AJAY JADEJA: JUST WARMING UP India's cricketing fortunes now, and in the months ahead, may well depend on how Anil Kumble spins out the opposition

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4

THE ERASER!

India's cricketing fortunes now, and in the months ahead, may well depend on how Anil Kumble spins out the opposition

20

JUST WARMING UP

One of India's most underestimated cricketers, Ajay Jadeja is all set to serve notice

24

HE WALKS IT LIKE HE TALKS IT

Allan Donald is the typical fast bowler He's tough, aggressive and highly motivated





15

NAYAN MONGIA: TO STUMP A KEEPER

28

SPOTLIGHT ON JONTY RHODES

32

SALIM MALIK: PREDICTABLY UNPREDICTABLE

40

FOCUS ON RAJESH CHAUHAN

42

THE TYSON-HOLYFIELD BOUT

51

DAY IN THE LIFE OF LESLIE CLAUDIUS

54

BOON FOR THE AUSSIES

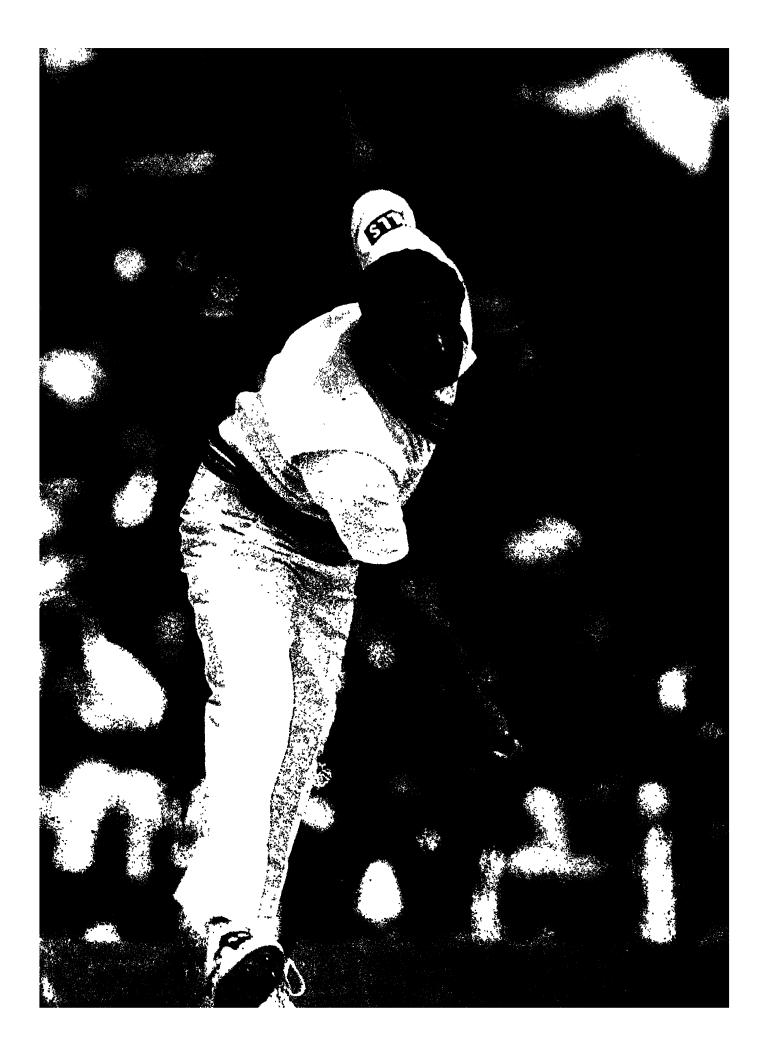
56

FOCUS ON MICHAEL SCHUMACHER

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF ANIL KUMBLE BY PATRICK EAGAR AJAY JADEJA BY SANTOSH GHOSH



THE ERASER!

BY ROBIN CHATTERJEE

India's cricketing fortunes now, and in the months ahead, may well depend on how Anil Kumble spins out the opposition



PPLE CRUMBLE'. That's what they called Anil Kumble when he was serving out a contract with North amptonshire in England, last year. In hindsight, the connection is all too apparent now: Crumble forms a strange rhyme with Kumble (as in humble) as the English pronounce his name.

There is also the element of a personal touch in it. When the Poms give you a nickname, it generally means that you have been accepted. And so in the PATRICK EAGAR

With skipper Sachin Tendulkar. The designation in front of Kumble's picture is self explanatory. Success, however, has not spoilt him

summer of 1995, Anil Kumble was made to feel at home in his adopted county. And as for Crumble, the opposition were living that name out.

The only vital change in Anil Kumble since then has been a pair of contact lens in favour of spectacles. That apart things still remain the same. The flipper still bears down with an unnerring accuracy. The googly serves as an occasional wake-up call to the batsmen. There is also



Kumble (centre) flanked by Tendulker (left) and Azher. Chalking out a strategy

the 'straighter one' that simply zips through the defences and tends to search for the abdomen guard, like some heat seeking missile, ignoring the bat completely. And so while we still continue to look up to the Tendulkars, the Azhars and the Dravids to provide our senses with a much needed succour, Anil Radhakrishna Kumble continues to be the chief architect of India's cricketing destiny.

It's a stiff task. A couple of months ago, no one would have paid any attention to the above assumption. During India's three-Test tour of England, it was widely believed that Kumble had 'lost' it. A wayward line and length, coupled with an uncanny ability to keep the ball far east and far west of the stumps encouraged the English batsmen to have him for breakfast. Kumble

ANIL KUMBLE: AT A GLANCE

IN TEST CRICKET

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* Date of birth : October 17, 1970

Debut in Test cricket : vs England, Old Trafford, 1990

Debut in One-day internationals : we Sri Lanks, Sharish, 1996

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Best bowling

6/12: vs West Indies. Eden Gardens. Hero Cup final. 1993.

Achievements

- * Took 105 wickets in 16 matches at a price of 2143 runs in 899. I over log Northamptonshire in the 1995 English County efficiences.

 son. No other Indian bowlers have achieved this feat in the history of the English County season. It was the second indiance after 1991, that a bowler claimed over 100 wickets in a English County season.
- "He has been named as one of Wisden's Pive Cricketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performances in County Clicketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performances in County Clicketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performance in County Clicketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performance in County Clicketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performance in County Clicketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performance in County Clicketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performance in County Clicketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performance in County Clicketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performance in County Clicketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performance in County County Clicketers of the Year in the 1995 edition for his brilliant performance in the 1995 edition for his brilliant per
- * Most number of wickets in a calendar year:
- 60 wickets in 31 matches in 1996 (up to 22.11.96)
- * Previous record:
- Shane Warne (Australia): 50 wickets in 29 matches, 1994.

Compiled by MARIPHASAD CHATTOPADHYAY

Titan of the Match in the Titan Cup final at Mumbai. A testimony to Kumble's success

rendered mortal in front of an English cricketer! These are the guys who wake up on the morning of a Test against India, Pakistan or Australia and pray to the Good Lord asking him to try and cull the ever increasing tribe of leg-spinners.

It was evident that the Kumble magic had become ineffective in England. He gave the batsmen a rare luxury, which he seldom offers, going back and walloping him on the back foot. Even Kumble's confusion at his own inefficiency was all too apparent. The bowler who chewed and spat out batsmen like apple pips was woefully short of a game plan. This was also illustrated in his on-field demeanour. His bowling statistics also let him down: five wickets from three Tests. So much so, a couple of critics remarked that: "The only person Kumble troubled on that tour was Mongia."

The lack of wickets. The momentary lapse of confidence and the sudden ignominy of being rendered mortal managed to create a buzz in Kumble's brain. The critics did not hear this buzz because through the clatter of all the troubled mental machinery Kumble was trying to formulate a fresh new game plan for survival. He was trying to sift through his mental energies in search for the right program. And before one could say Quark X-Press he had found the answer. In fact, it had been staring at him right in the face.

Kumble's game plan consisted of two basic programs. Program one: be straight and be correct.

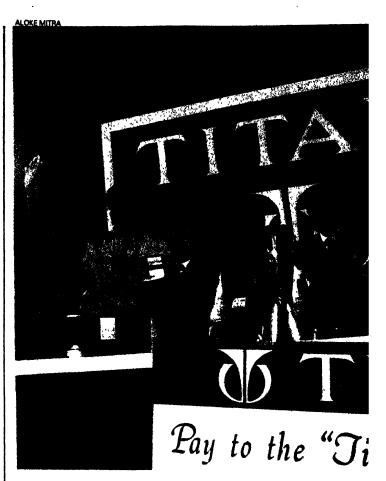
Program two: when all other variations fail, refer to program one.

Obviously, these ploys were result oriented because the wickets once again kept coming by the bagfuls. The batsmen did try and formulate their own programs in order to try and counter Kumble. They searched for many complicated answers but evaded the simple ones. In their quest they forget the basic lesson, which is...

...The best way to play Kumble is to stretch forward. Don't even breathe in case your hand shakes and you manage to give that vital edge. And if you're smart (that is if you refuse to believe that Kumble does not turn the ball), you'd want to look out for the ball that turns away. And here's a statutory warning: 'Don't play across the line buddy'.

Kumble's strength stems from the suffocating control which he exercises on the batsman. In this manner he is almost like a surgeon who is snipping off the body parts of his patient under local anaesthesia. It can hurt like hell. There are of course easier options that a batsman can take: ask your Test Board not to consider you, or if you're forced to play, then you could let the straighter one zip through onto your stumps. The resultant feeling during the walk back to the pavilion can be one of tremendous relief.

Anil Kumble will more often than not hold his piece,



But when the big game comes up, he is not afraid to speak his mind. In times of pressure Kumble becomes the 'main man'. He is the Eraser.

Proof?

Titan Cup semi final. The chips are down. Tendulkar's ready to throw in his hand, except for one trump card: Kumble!

Tendulkar deals. Kumble dismisses Paul Reiffel and Jason Gillespie in a crunch situation...bowled.

In the final at Mumbai, things are no different. Kumble's contribution is once again highlighted (8.2-0-25-4). Stop and ask yourself one question. Through all the high scores that our batsmen put up, who wins us the games?

Rhetorical question. It's also difficult to understand where a cool, understated guy like Kumble picks up all that spare heat.

Success has not spoilt him, neither will occasional failure serve to devastate him. Kumble is smart enough to know that both phenomena are totally temporary. It is only an individuals sense of balance and purpose that can keep him going. Which is why Anil Kumble is so cool about his profession. He does not worry about the chemical content of cricket (So what if he does not turn the ball? You can kiss his butt). He follows his own mental instructions, which is to 'remove' the batsman from the pitch.

Or shall we say erase?

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Replete Section	Colores .	Title
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Friday 13.12.96	AUS-NED ESP-GER IND-PAK	9.00 a.m. 2.30 p.m. 4.30 p.m.
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T is not often that Indian wicketkeepers score a century in Test cricket. In fact there are only a couple of them so far. Nayan Ramlal Mongia is the latest one to join the select few.

Now playing international cricket for four years, Mongia seems to have carved a niche for himself in the team with his consistently good showing behind and before the stumps, both in Test and one-day cricket Excerpts from a candid interview

SPORTSWORLD: What have you to say about your success in the one-off Delhi Test against Australia?

MONGIA I don't have to say much about it because everybody knows

that I can bat In fact, I've batted well on many occasions It was just that I could not convert my 30s and 40s into big scores I am glad I could do it in a Test and that too against a strong attack. I am looking forward to playing many more innings like that And I am confident I will

You must have been delighted because you didn't score just a century but you got 150-plus...
Definitely But I was not surprised by that As I told you, I know what I am capable of doing as a batsman and it was a matter of time before I realised my batting potential fully It was always my dream to get the Man of

Nayan Mongia is one of India's most accessible cricketers and he is certainly a crowd puller in his own right the Match award in a Test because not too many wicketkeepers have received it So obviously I was very happy. I now want to be the Man of the Series, not necessarily in a Test rubber

Your Delhi hundred actually came on the heels of your failure with the bat in the five-match Friendship Series in Canada, didn't it?

I wouldn't say I had failed in Canada I had a particular job to do as a batsman. And that also as an opening batsman cum pinch hitter. So it was not as easy as some people may have thought it was I was not supposed to defend while opening the innings. So it was a different ball game altogether. And don't forget I was the main.



TO SIMP



Indian wicketkeeper, NAYAN MONGIA is not only adept behind the stumps, he's also at ease when it comes to smooth talking. Excerpts from a conversation...

BY HARESH PANDYA

wicketkeeper also.

Even as a wicketkeeper you had a mixed series in Canada. You didn't endear yourself to many by your performance behind the stumps save on a couple of occasions. Was it because you were unable to concentrate well since you had to open the Indian innings and pinch hit as well? First of all I didn't fail as a wicketkeeper in Canada. We played five matches in a short span of time against a team like Pakistan. I think we played three one-dayers on the trot there. It was a very hectic programme and I think I did reasonably well under the circumstances. Contrary to what you say, I think I dropped only two catches in the whole series and that was in the last game on the tour. Even they were difficult chances. But in the four matches prior to that, I did reasonably well. So you can't say I had failed as a wicketkeeper also.

Before the start of the Delhi Test, did you have a feeling that your place in the Indian team was in some danger? Not at all. I may not have done well as a batsman in Canada but I am a specialist wicketkeeper more than anything else. My form or performance was not that bad to land me in any trouble at that stage.

Don't you think there is still some scope of improvement in your wicketkeeping?

Of course, there is. I don't think I am perfect. You improve your game with every match. Particularly wicketkeeping is such a discipline that mere practice won't help. It can be improved match by match because you get to learn a lot of things while keeping in a match — different situations, different wickets, different players. It's really a tough and thankless job. Net practice is fine, but when you keep in actual matches, you come across different bowlers, different batsmen and a lot of other different things.

Do you think you have established yourself in the national team as a wicketkeeper who has a role to play as a batsman too?

To a certain extent, yes. But I never

take my place in the team for granted and never will. I will keep performing. It is such a professional and competitive world that you can't relax for a moment now.

Is there any rival who may snatch your place in the Indian team?

In order to be on your toes you have always to remember that there are other players waiting for their chance. Only then can you be on your toes. Otherwise you tend to relax a bit. There should always be healthy competition for every place in the team. It makes you perform better and better—always. But I don't see any threat to my place right now even though I do not take it for granted.

You have been playing international cricket since 1993, especially so many one-day matches. Hasn't there been too much cricket? Doesn't it affect your concentration?

Yeah, I've been playing almost non stop since making my debut for India. I am the only regular 'keeper' in the team. So sometimes it just happens; you get tired, you feel fatigued. But you have got to perform



Be it as a stop-gap opener, or as a batsman who comes in at a crisis Mongia does play his role

to the best of your capability. You can't offer excuses. You have to be in top condition, physically and mentally, and you have to give your 100 per cent. It's a professional world.

But do you ever feel that you should take a break from one or two matches—one-day matches, that is—just to maintain your concentration as a wicketkeeper since you play too much cricket? No, I never feel like taking some rest. It's very competitive, very professional, and you can't take any chance.

How do you concentrate?

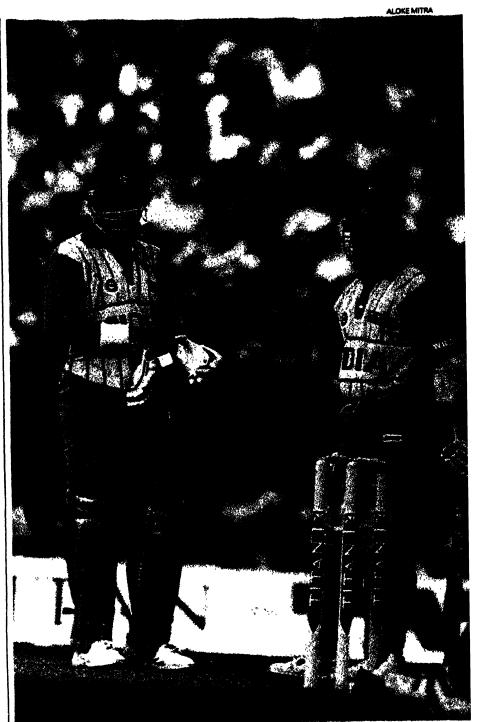
I talk to myself. I do a lot of deep breathing. It helps me concentrate, to motivate myself and relax. All this is very important when you are a wicketkeeper. If you deep breathe from time to time while behind the wickets, you don't get too excited during crucial stages.

What has been your formula of success?

Hard work and utmost faith in God.

Even before you had played for India, you had decided to quit because of want of opportunities. How did you chance your decision then?

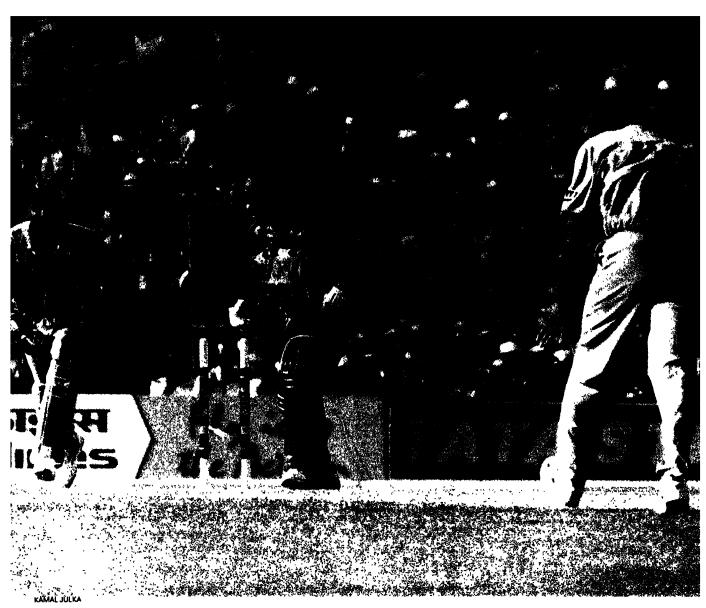
Actually I was a bit frustrated in 1992. I wasn't getting the chance to play for India, after the 1990 tour of England, for three years. I had been playing all the trial matches. Even my family was a bit reluctant that I should continue to play because we have a family business which needed looking after. And my father was retiring. So I said OK, I would give myself a few more trials. If things still didn't improve, I would quit. Then I spoke to both Anshuman Gaekwad and Duttaii Gaekwad and other members of the family. Anshuman said age was on my side and advised me to wait for some more time. He was certain that I would get my chance and he told me



to grab it when it came my way. I am grateful today to all my well-wishers who were with me, who supported me when I was not seeing any light at the end of the tunnel. Now that I am in the Indian team and playing regularly for four years, I want to work even harder and I do not want to give my place so easily to other guys.

What were Kiran More's reactions when you were preferred to him in the Indian team?

He was very happy when I was selected to play for the country because he felt that the Baroda flag was flying in the Indian team, whether it was he or I. But there was a lot of pressure on me. I had to justify



the confidence of the selectors in me, I had to perform and prove my detractors wrong, I had to do something remarkable because I had replaced one of India's great wicketkeepers. There were a lot of expectations from others and I had to establish myself in the team.

Do you get along well with More? Oh, very well. If I have any problem, I always go to him and seek his advice. Then we practice together and try to overcome the problem. There is no rivalry between us. We are very good friends.

You didn't want to marry or get engaged to someone for some years. But you are engaged to Tannu now. How come you changed your mind so suddenly?

Wicket-keeping is a very demanding and often thankless job, but Mongia revels in high pressure situations

I had stated before that if I got a very good girl, I would get married any time. And Tannu is the right girl, the right choice for me. So I didn't hesitate in changing my decision because I want to settle down now.

Does she follow cricket?

No, she doesn't. She used to watch a bit on television. But she is getting interested in the game now.

She is a Punjabi, just like you. But if you had liked some other girl, would you have changed your mind?

I don't think I would have any problem. What was important was

that I should get the right partner.

What do you like the most about her?

I like everything about Tannu. I can't single out any particular quality of her personality and say this is what I like better in her.

When do you intend to get married?

We have not fixed the date yet. But we shall get married early next year.

Maybe after India's tour of the West Indies.

What attracted you to cricket?

I've been asking my mum and dad how I got interested in cricket but they say I chose only cricket and nothing else since my childhood. They say it was probably in my blood.

That is how Imran Khan is portraying himself to the masses, as he embarks on his political campaign to become Pakistan's **Prime** Minister

FROM SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

RICKET has won him many laurels. But will cricket finally make Imran Khan the Wazir-e-Azam of

Pakistan?



ambitions. And Imran knows that cricket, only cricket, can take him to that goal, not his politics; not his Tehrik-e-Insaaf, Movement for

n is reveiling in his new role of a and (inset) he does make an imp



Considered as one of the shrewdest cricketing brains, imran uses cricketing terminology to get to the masses

corruption." And you can easily imagine how the star-struck Pakistanis would react to such apt cricket analogy from the country's cricket messiah.

Imran indeed wants to be Pakistan's political messiah, too. But in his effort to achieve that dream, he, at the moment at least has stuck steadfast to his cricketing past.

He also knows that his remarkable athleticism, born of years as one of cricket's fittest participants would further enhance his youthful, maverick image, so different and so uncommon in Pakistan's conservative, feudal society, and old-fashioned politics.

So, Imran swiftly climbs a rickety bamboo ladder or jumps on to a makeshift wooden dias, and launches his tirade against the country's political mafia. If Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari was the world champion of corruption, his wife is no less a personality in Imran's description "She is the world champion of lies."

Only Imran himself is the right kind of bowler that Pakistan needed at this hour to send these hangers-on back to the pavilion. "The bowler has taken the first wicket," he told his cheering audience, almost as if he was doing some weird cricket commentary, "And you know whose wicket that was —Asif Ali Zardari, who went to iail on charges of corruption. And the second wicket to fall was that of Benazir Bhutto, "the world champ of lies, who has a shawl on her head, prayer beads in her hands, and thievery in her heart. Now, if you will let me be the bowler and if you take the catches, we can bowl them all out and rid Pakistan of this political mafia," Imran tells the cheering crowds.

Imran Khan Niazi has indeed come a long way from the days of his cricketing, purely sporting aggressiveness. He indeed is on his way to becoming a mature politician.

Justice, but a lifetime of cricketing glory.

And that's probably why cricket remains the constant refrain in Imran Khan's political rhetoric. Almost everything he says to champion his cause and to denounce his political opponents rings with cricketing

resonance. Ex- Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto was a very poor bat, so she "lost her wicket" Her husband Asif Ali Zardari fared hardly better, according to Imran Khan, he could not even hold his bat straight, but, on the other hand, Imran insisted Zardari was "the world champion of

16

Experts, however, are still sceptical that the former cricketer-cum playboy-cum-philanthropist is really ready to take on the corrupt, feudalistic well-entrenched political forces of Pakistan. His party can bank on little financial support; the party is not yet organised enough, and the leader, Imran Khan is an absolute newcomer. It perhaps is needless to mention that Pakistan's semi-democratic politics is too complicated, perhaps, too dangerous

for a dreaming political dilletante.

Through assassinations, military coups, a disastrous genocidal civil war and the dismissal of three civilian governments in six years Pakistani politics might even have totally confounded Machiavelli or a Chanakya. And here we have one idealistic dreamer giving the clarion call to his countrymen to bowl out the "political blood-suckers." Sometimes, it all seems so unreal, so unbelievable.

Imran, however, makes his best efforts to make himself convincing enough by rattling off financial statistics, like one of those cricket pundits, providing their analytical point of view. Run rate, bowling average, fielding lapses, number of catches—everything that brings out the true essence of a game and helps

Jemima and imran are new blessed with a son, but both remain dedicated and sympathetic to the needs of the poor and peady.





put things into perspective

Imran does the same to illustrate his country's political and economic bankruptcy, brought about by a political culture that is shamelessly self-gratifying

He described how millions of dollars were being spent every year to keep the powerful politicians in stinking luxury in their presidential palaces or ministerial bungalows how as many as 85 Mercedes limousines were assigned to the Prime Minister's staff, and how 10 million in tax-payers' money was spent every year on overseas medical care for influential politicians and their families. It was against such a backdrop of unabashed feudal, political gluttony that Imran Khan had set out on his mission to build a cancer hospital for the poor It was a huge project, requiring finances to the tune of \$25 million And here our man Imran Khan sought to realise his dream depending entirely on

donations raised by himself

During his cricketing years, it became such an obsession for him that he at one stage began to draw a lot of flak from his cricketing detractors as well as those who saw him as a potential political threat

More recently, when Imran's disaffection for the Benazir regime became evident, the self proclaimed saviour of Pakistan's democracy, Miss Bhutto, ordered a total TV and radio blackout of Imran's rallies and all news pertaining to his hospital

This caused some financial constraints for the hospital authorities, who could no longer appeal for donations through the state-controlled electronic media. But the fact remains that the hospital had by then become a worldwide phenomenon, not in the sense that it became the greatest centre for cancer research or treatment, but surely as an unique example of a sporting hero

Imran outside his cancer hospital it is probably the first time that a sportsman has undertaken a venture of such magnitude

making such an enormous contribution to a noble humanitarian cause. There is no such example in the entire history of sport. And hence, TV or no TV, Imran Khan's hospital has now become a phenomenon not only within Pakistan, but globally too. And personally for Imran Khan, that hospital has meant the realisation of one of his most cherished dreams.

In cricket, he got Pakistan the world championship, something he coveted for a long, long time. He waited and waited till he met his lady love. Now only one mission remains to be accomplished the one, many of Pakistan's upper class elite (who usually call Imran a hypocrite) describes as impossible.

But, I wonder if the word 'impossible' had ever existed in the dictionary of the fiercely ambitous Imran Khan Niazi

'The Boss'

Sapysachi sarkar in his article 'The Boss' in Sportsworld dated 23 Oct-5 Nov, 1996; has justifiably portrayed Sachin Tendulkar as an aggressive and belligerent skipper. The most remarkable change that Sachin has brought about is the constant exploration in regards to improvement. Gone are the days when a sulking Azharuddin watched from cover point to India meekly surrendering to opposition:

Sachin has instantly changed his fielding position. Like Hansie Cronje he stands at mid-on and makes it clear to his bowlers what he exactly wants from them. Azharuddin kept uttering one rhyme—cricketers who represent their country need not be told about their responsibility. Sachin, in sharp contrast, reminds everybody what is required of them.

The stereotype moves of Azhar is so conspicuously missing. Instead of the regulation bowling changes and predictable field placings there are some innovative moves. That's why even a rookie like Sunil Joshi found himself bowling the 50th over in the second Sahara Cup match.

Such is the new skipper's self-belief that even seven successive failures did force him to contemplate dropping down the batting order, something we

were used to Azhar. In the Trent Bridge Test, a struggling Azharuddin demoted himself to No.6. In Sachin's book, a captain should always lead from the front.

Interacting with the teammates is his greatest attribute. Like a true general he stands by his soldiers whenever a crisis arises. That's why Kumble didn't find himself deserted after a major blemish in Toronto. Sachin took the blame of slow scoring on his shoulder to shield Sourav Ganguly after the Titan Cup match in Jaipur.

It's not that Sachin is flawless in his moves. His decision to field first in Jaipur was a major blunder. But he is a believer of trial and error. And he quickly learns from his mistakes. One can easily see the commitment and sincerity injected in everybody's endeavour. The cricket crazy followers of India will never mind

losing, as long as we go down battling.

CHINMOY ROY, Calcutta

JUST see how you inflict negative vibes in the minds of the average Indian cricket-lovers. You say, Sachin Tendulkar is 'The Boss', his work ethic is simple, his commitment is total, he is always an aggressor etc etc. So what? Will that help the Indian team win matches more than before? No way.

When you replace 'his' by 'their', then only we benefit. What's so special about a single committed cricketer in a whole team? It's a team game and we expect the entire team to be committed. Or is it asking for too much?

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack

Interesting

S. VENKATARAMAN'S article 'Burn Baby Burn' on Martina Hingis, (Sportsworld, 9th October) made very interesting reading.

Though only 15 years of age,

Hingis plays her game like a real professional and she certainly seems to have the potential to become the world No.1.

Moreover, Martina is quite confident about herself and her game seems ready to reach a peak.

Meanwhile, being a regular

reader, may I have the liberty to draw your attention towards the missing column. I am disappointed that the 'Cartoon Corner' and 'Poster' have been removed.

AMIT BHATTACHARYA, Tinsukia

BY SUMIT MUKHERJEE

N a scale of 10 he would rate a nine for his fielding alone. Add to it his ability to explode during the slog overs and his more-than-useful gentle medium-pace, and you have the quintessential one-day cricketer who is a captain's delight.

Yet, life has not been kind to Ajay Daulatsinhji Jadeja, who, since hitting the international circuit six years ago, is only now beginning to find his feet.

It required a couple of savage knocks—one against Pakistan in the World Cup and the other in the Titan Cup final versus South Africa—which tilted the game decisively in India's way, for Jadeja to make his presence felt in the line-up.

For those who were witness to the massacre of Waqar Younis under the lights at the Chinnaswamy Stadium during which he plundered 40 runs in the speedster's last two overs, will not forget that innings in a hurry.

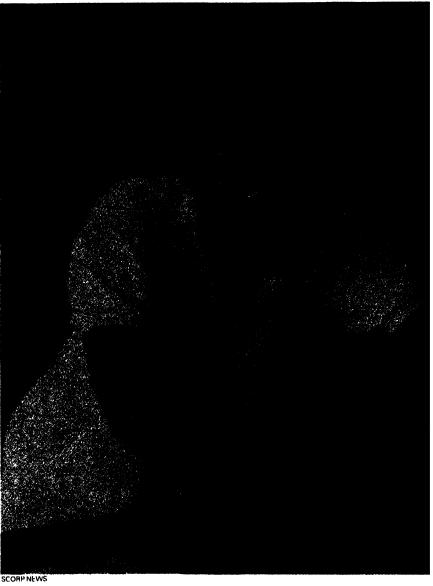
Never before was the fearsome Younis treated with such disdain. Those lethal in-dipping yorkers were converted into full-tosses and sent screaming to the fence. If Chetan Sharma was made to look like a schoolboy by Javed Miandad with that epic last ball six in Sharjah, Younis was made to look like a novice who did not know where to pitch the next delivery.

If Bangalore saw Jadeja at his savage best, against South Africa in

Mumbai, it was his controlled aggression which produced the same effect—only qualitatively it was a much superior knock. In Bangalore, Jadeja had pulverised Pakistan after Navjot Sidhu had laid the foundation

Jadeja remains one of India's most underrated cricketers, but he is never short of motivation

for the slog, but in Mumbai Jadeja h come to the crease after yet another middle order failure. The situation demanded that he keep his head down, push for the singles and twos and bat out the full 50 overs. He did just what was written in his brief, timed his slog perfectly on a pitch



JUST SCOPNEWS VARING UP!

AJAY JADEJA is a cricketer with a lot of unrealised potential. The best of him is yet to come

which hardly encouraged batsmen to play on the rise.

Both were match-winning knocks by any standards, but he was denied the award on both occasions. Yet, it was a vindication of sorts for Jadeja with whom the Indian selectors have juggled around for the last couple of years.

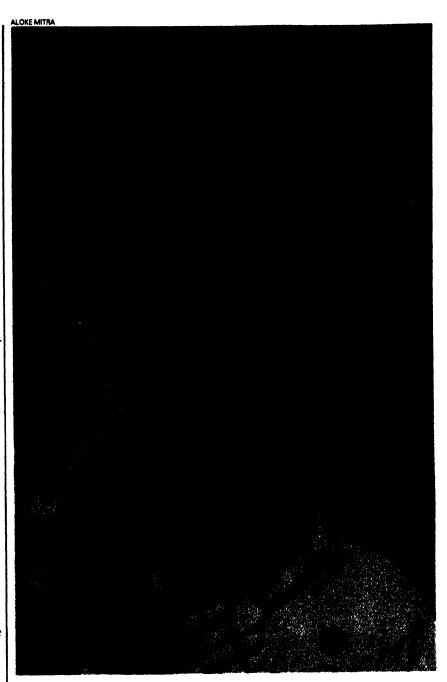
By his own admission Jadeja would like to open, ideally with Sachin Tendulkar. "We have a very good understanding especially when it comes to running between the wickets. With Sachin at the wicket, a lot of pressure eases at the other end. I would love to open with him", says Jadeja.

However, Geoffrey Boycott is one expert has been crying himself hoarse that Jadeja is the man for India at No. 6. "He can he such a destructive player down the order. Ideally he should come in at No. 6 for India," Boycott insists. And, he has been proved right.

However, with musical chairs being the order of the day in Indian cricket, Jadeja himself does not know in which position he would be batting in the next match. It is not only his batting order that has been toyed around with, the Indian thinktank has also undermined his bowling skills. There was a time, not long ago, when his bowling was simply put in cold storage. It was only after Tendulkar took over the captaincy that Jadeja has been given the ball regularly.

It is his dazzling fielding that has probably kept the axe at bay when the runs have not come off his bat. Jadeja may not be in the Jonty Rhodes class, but he is always 20-plus on the field, and like all brilliant fielders he enjoys fielding.

Channel Nine experts were aghast when he produced that out-of-this-world catch during the '92 World Cup—running in from widish long-off and diving forward with his outstretched palms as the ball died on him before coming up with it—to remove Allan Border off Kapil Dev at Brisbane. What surprised the likes of Ian Chappell and Tony Greig was that an unknown Indian—it was Jadeja's



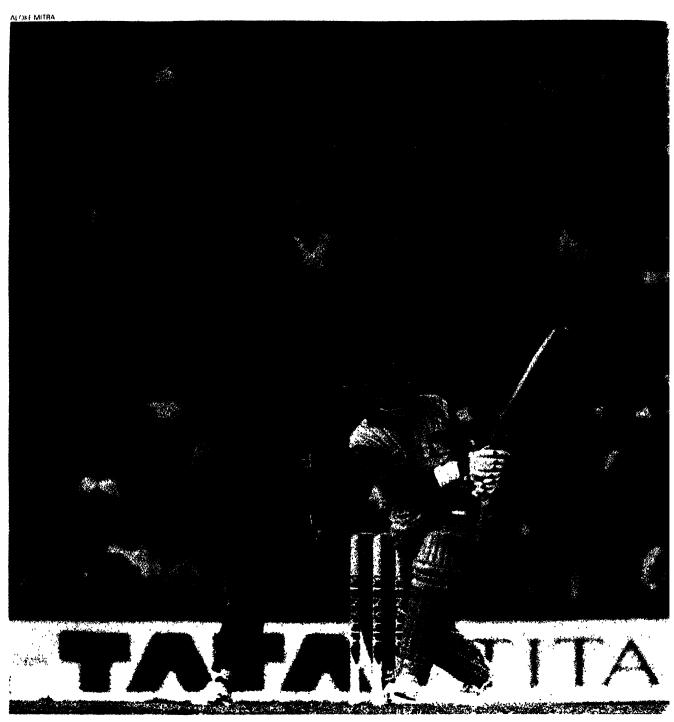
debut game—was capable of producing such magic in the out field. It did not win India the game, but Jadeja picked up the award for holding what was labelled as "the catch of the tournament".

Yes, fielding is one area which Jadeja has striven to improve with every outing. His ability to pick up the ball cleanly and hit the stumps directly makes him a terror in the cover-point region—perhaps the most crucial position in one-day cricket.

Once the runs start coming off his bat, Jadeja can hold his own against the best bowlers

On the debit side of Ajay Jadeja's balance sheet there is one entry which perhaps explains his relatively low rate of success: His preoccupation with things other than cricket.

After Sachin, Jadeja commands the biggest female following among the present crop of cricketers. His love for life in the fast lane is only too



He came, he saw, and he stayed put. Jadeja's gutsy 43 played a vital role in India winning the Titan Cup

well-known. He clearly believes in leaving all matters cricket at the stadium after the match has ended.

While it may be agreed that nothing can be achieved by brooding over a failure or a bad patch, the problem is

that Jadeja's zest for life is often misconstrued. When the TV cameras picked him smiling and joking when the Indians were staring at defeat against Sri Lanka in the Singer Cup, the team management was not amused.

Jadeja was hard-pressed to explain his behaviour. In a way, he is a prisoner of his happy-go-lucky image, and his highly contagious bubbly character. Some people are like that by nature and there is precious little they can do about it. When asked how he planned to tackle the players after he was made the captain of the India A team last year, Jadeja came out with a gem of a quote: "I don't have to be a Hitler to get the work done." He certainly did impress on his outing as a captain in Kenya.

Jadeja is the last person to agree that



Test cricket For someone who hails from the lineage of the legendary Ranjitsinhji and Duleepsinhji (he is the great grandson of Duleepsinhji), Jadeja's batsmanship lacks the finesse A surfeit of one-day cricket has also not helped his cause It will not be too off the mark to

he is not serious about the game "If I was not serious about my game, I would not have survived at the international level for so long," Jadeja has gone on record saying It is his laid-back approach which often comes in handy during a post-mortem where scapegoats are sought

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

But for all his natural ability Jadeja still remains technically unsound which makes him a suspect player in It will not be too off the mark to describe him as a right handed version of Vinod Kambli Both have striking similarities. They represent

What me worry'? Ajay Jadeja is one of Indian cricket's most saleable names today

the psyche of the quintessential Indian youth of today. The onus is on them to stand up and guide the fortunes of Indian cricket as it goes into the next century.

HE WALKS IT LIKE HE TALKS IT!

South Africa's Allan Donald is a typical fast bowler. Highly aggressive, highly intelligent and highly motivated. These qualities have helped him to be hugely successful in India. The warrior speaks about himself...

INTERVIEWED BY HARESH PANDYA

If South Africa had not been readmitted to international cricket at the start of this decade, the world would have been deprived of seeing a brilliant fast bowler in full flow. But, thank heavens the *proteas*are back in the game after spending more than 20 years in the wilderness and we are lucky to watch Allan Donald parading his enormous talent as a lethal pace bowler.

They used to call him the white lightning when he first burst upon the scene: a raw fast bowler who used to throw them quick. Today they call Donald the fastest white bowler in the world simply because howsoever you admire Donald, you just can't ignore some brown bowlers from Pakistan and black speedsters from the Caribbean. What is important, however, is Donald has a class, calibre and character that give him a special identity all his own in this highly competitive world of speed merchants.

A lively talker, Donald doesn't mince words when he has to condemn something. Even in this matter, his approach is that of a fast bowler. In the following interview, Donald speaks at length about many aspects of his successful career. Excerpts:

SPORTSWORLD: There are people who describe you as the fastest white bowler in the world

When Donald's ready to do business, you have to be a cool customer to deal with him $\bf 24$



today. What kind of effect does it have on you psychologically?

It doesn't really bother me when people say I am the fastest white bowler or the fastest bowler in the world. It has never bothered me in any part of the world and never will. Neither has it pressurised me in any way. I just try to bowl to the best of my ability and enjoy myself as much as I can. And that's all.

Judging from your performance in the recent Titan Cup, you seem to be enjoying bowling on the slow and bounceless Indian pitches....

Oh, I am very happy with my performance in India. I think I have been doing better than what I expected to before landing here. It has been a very good tour for me so far. I am really surprised by my own performance in India but it is a pleasant surprise.

Do you believe you have been bowling better than at any time in your career so far?

I hope not! But it's probably the best I've bowled for a long time and most consistently at that. I am quite happy with my form at the moment. I hope it will continue for another four or five months. Of course, it's probably the best I have ever bowled in one-day cricket since I started playing one-day internationals. I've just got to make the best use of my present form as long as it lasts.

Obviously you must be very proud to represent your country and play for as talented a side as South Africa which has been doing consistently well since being readmitted in international cricket...

Very much, very much. We are all very determined and disciplined players and that's why we have been doing so well. Discipline is in all those basic things that we do well, individually and as a team. And we are very focussed. We haven't taken anything for granted and never will. Discipline and commitment are a must in a team sport like cricket. And we are very positive in our attitude towards anything, not just on-field performance.

As a fast bowler, what are your main features?

I have worked hard to be at the top of my trade. I always work hard and try every means to improve my bowling in whatever way I can. I worked hard this summer and during the winter off that I had in England. I've tried to get my yorker right. It has been working pretty well for me at this stage. Also, I've changed something technically in my bowling action which is very hard to describe. But the yorker has been working really well for me, perhaps as well as I had ever hoped it to.

One saw you reverse swing the ball just about crazily against Australia. Do you reverse swing



The piercing eyes of a fast bowler ready to psyche out any batsman

often or only occasionally?

Not only I but most fast bowlers do it all the time. We have to. We work really hard on the ball when we are out there on the field. It makes a big difference in the end overs in one-day cricket, especially when the slogging is on and the ball is swinging. But still you have got to try and get the ball on the right area to hit the wickets. And we get it slightly wrong against the Indians who are very strong leg-side players and you can find yourself going to the boundary more often than not. But it is a lethal weapon and I think it is going to make a lot of difference in Tests as well.

There are fast bowlers who intimidate the

batsmen in many ways. Are you the same?

I think intimidation is a main part of a strike bowler's armoury. I think it's fair because restrictions on bouncers have taken a lot out of the fast attack. At least one bouncer per over should be allowed in limited-overs cricket. Otherwise, we have nothing to do in this type of cricket. Well, almost. Who knows they might put bowling machines at both ends of the wickets and start bowling saying: "Well, guys, hit them". So you just have to field well and restrict them for 50 overs. What I mean to say is that this sort of thing takes a lot out of the bowlers. We have to rethink everything about the attack now.

But that means you prefer Tests to one-day

More often than not, when Donald is on the prowl the batsmen are back in the pavilion cooling their heels



internationals...

Definitely. And that's why we play cricket. One-day cricket is for the entertainment of the crowds. Big, full houses, a lot of action and excitement and what not. It's very entertaining. It's just one-day stuff and it's all over in a day. Test cricket is the thing that we have come here to play and that's a real test of your skills. One-day cricket is a lottery.

When there is a ball in your hand, do you look at the batsmen as if they were your enemies like

many fast bowlers tend to do?

Obviously, batsmen are there to be removed and I'll try and find out or work out any sort of way to do that. Even if you break a finger or whatever, it's going to be there to get them out. You've got to find every which way of trying to remove them because they've got bats in their hands to attack you. So you have got to be aggressive as far as possible. Of course, I do not indulge in unnecessary sledging. I just stare at the batsmen. It's almost a psychological thing. You don't have to say anything. If you are going to chat with them, you have to use it constructively but not for the sake of sledging.

Don't you think one-day cricket is biased against bowlers because they can bowl not more than 10 overs each whereas batsman can bat through all 50 overs?

Thankfully, it's just 10 overs because you can travel a long distance in 50 overs! If we had to bowl for 50 overs, it would have been a hell of a difference—and difficult too. So thank God it is just 50 overs.

How do you react when a batsman hits you to the boundary?

It's a part of the game. If you bowl a short ball, you are bound to be punished.

Doesn't it instigate you?

You shouldn't be so weak so as to lose your temper. I know that if somebody hits you, your immediate reaction is to get angry. But if you lose your control and spoil your own aggression as a bowler, you might find yourself going for, say, 10 to 12 runs an over or something like that. And you struggle to get back from that. So you've got to be very disciplined and keep your cool.

Could you mention one batsman whom you found technically good against you?

There are only a few around the world these days who play me well. Mike Atherton is technically one of the best opening batsman I've bowled to. Mark Taylor, the Waugh brothers Steve and Mark, Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin are difficult batsman to bowl to. Whe you come up against world-class players like them, you have got to get your mind-set right, you



The Titan that impressed everyone. Donald's choice as the Titan of Titans was justifiable

have got to get your game-plan worked out against them, especially in the sub-continent where it's tough and wickets are slow with not much bounce and assistance for fast bowlers. So you've got to get all this absolutely right.

To what extent did the County cricket experience help you?

Oh, it has helped me a lot. Some wickets in England are similar to the wickets in India. You have to use pace through the air to get the batsmen out. Sometimes batsmen tend to hook on slow wickets where the ball stays a little low. So you have got to try and use everything in your power. As I said before, it's very very difficult to bowl here. And you have got to be so much fitter to play here because you might find yourself bowling longer overs. But I always thrive on a challenge.

Do you believe in the axiom that pace bowlers always hunt in pairs?

Yeah, they do. We have been fortunate enough since

we are back in international cricket that we have some good fast bowlers. I've had some fine partners of late. Fanie de Villiers is a great campaigner. Shaun Pollock, who is not with us in India, is immensely talented. Brett Schultz is also injured at the moment. Lance Klusener, who is here with us, is definitely very deceptive. So we have got plenty of bowlers for the job. I think we have a world-class attack at the moment.

Did you ever aspire to be captain of South Africa?

No, no, no. I never wanted to be a captain. It has never been in me to be a captain of the side. Of course, I have led teams in my time but not the national team. That's for somebody who dedicates himself to it and Hansie is the right person for the job. And he is a very intelligent bloke. I am not saying I am not intelligent but he is the man for the job at the moment. I think it's less pressure on myself because I do not have to bowl fast while captaining the side as well. Thankfully, it's Hansie's job!

What is your immediate goal?

I'd love to take 200 Test wickets as quickly as I can. I want to achieve that before the 1999 World Cup and then take it further than that.

RHODES SCHOLAR

JONTY RHODES is not a great cricketer, but neither is he an ordinary one. Charismatic, devout, and totally down-to-earth. he remains South Africa's most endearing player

BY RICA ROY

HEN South Africa's cricketers were hastily squeezed into the 1992 World Cup, there were mixed feelings in the fraternity. The country remained ruled by an undemocratically elected right-wing white government and many articles on aparthied were still on statute book.

Though the ecstatic reception given by Calcutta, a few months earlier to that had, as the former South African batsman Barry Richards said, santisised the team, it was vital that they proved themselves as good ambassadors to avoid antagonising those critics, both within and without. who felt the speed of their rehabilitation smacked more of grubby commercialism than ideals. The dangers were underlined later in the year when rugby union supporters greeted the Springbok's return from isolation by singing the Afrikaner anthem 'Die Stem'. Their captain, Naas Botha, led a boorish tour group through France and England, alienating all they met.

Although in Hansie Cronje the current South African tourists have at the helm a toughened Afrikaner more interested in winning cricket matches than in being a political animal, the image of the side is shaped by other players as well. There are a number of cricketers in the current South African who are worth emulating. But none are as popular as the refreshing and exuberant Jonty Rhodes.

At 26, though he looks younger, Rhodes is the most recognised and popular cricketer in South Africa. Bubbly, polite, devout and modest, just the man a father would have liked to see his daughter bring home. Indeed his marriage a year back had hogged national headlines and probably upset as many prospective father-in-laws as would be brides.

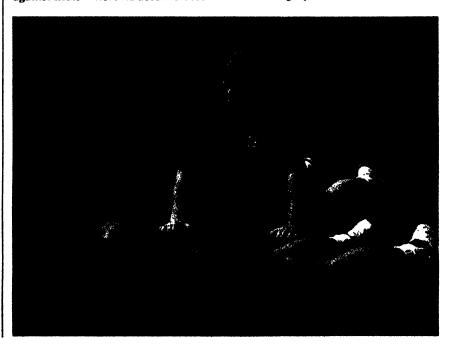
While the worth of his batting—an average of over 40 in Tests—and in one dayers has surprised and silenced his critics. Still he has an army of detractors who brand him unfit for top grade cricket and maintain that his batting technique isn't good enough to keep up to the standards that have been set for his country at the Test level.

Yet Rhodes, for all his so-called drawbacks, possesses great heart and mind. He has an extremely shrewd cricket mind and has given evidence of it on those rare occasions when he has rescued South Africa. That was as recently as in a Titan Cup encounter against India where he accumulated

54 runs, an innings of dogged defensiveness and virile aggression to guide his team to safety. Then again, there are times when Rhodes prevails to set aside his inhibitions and prefers to lighten up the stadium. Batting at no. 5 and no. 6 he has often led late rallies for his team. A hockey player, with a bit of a hockey player's grip, Rhodes pulls the ball cleverly but looks less sound when drawn forward to the off drive. He remains the wild card in South African batting, which otherwise has nothing subtle or mysterious about it.

To his dismay, however, Rhodes was left out of South Africa's first Test XI since their rehabilitation in Bridgetown, Barbados, but has played in all of their subsequent Tests. Hansie Cronje, is a warm admirer of his far

Fitness plays an enormous role in Rhodes' incredible fielding capabilities and he never takes that lightly



Jonty Rhodes is one of the most loved cricketers in the world today but feme rests very easily on his shoulders

from orthodox technique. He says, "Jonty (Rhodes) plays very late, his head is over the ball all the time, he has a great eye and a huge heart."

However, it is his fielding that has made him South Africa's most charismatic tourist. Brilliant and eye catching, it is good enough for him to be compared with Colin Bland, the great Rhodesian fielder of the 60s. While Bland practised alone for hours throwing at three stumps in a hockey goal, Rhodes began fielding in the passageway at home with his father, the cost being a number of windows and pictures.

Strong encouragement at school followed and by the time South Africa entered the World Cup in 1992, Rhodes making his first trip outside the country, was recognised within as its best fielder. The sight of him leaping about getting his whites muddied had been a familier sight in South Africa by then. While Bland's strength was direct hits, frequently gained after surprising batsmen with surreptitious movements in the field, Rhodes is unmissable —walking, almost jogging in, constantly chatting to bowlers and other fielders, racing from backward point to deep mid-on to field and generally acting as if he had a beehive in his jockstrap.

He does not view himself as an entertainer but says, "I'm just out there to enjoy myself. If people find that entertaining then I'm lucky because it creates opportunities for me. I have never gone out thinking, who can I impress today, but it is nice to know people appreciate what I do".

The opportunities include a number of endorsements but not tobacco or alcohol—which have made him the highest grossing cricketer in South Africa and the chance to influence people's attitudes in other areas. Rhodes suffers from mild reflex epilepsy, caused by his falling from a tree at the age of six, and he now leads a campaign to promote epilepsy awareness. His ability to lead a normal life despite it has been the bulwark of



the campaign.

"It was great to know that by being in the spotlight I could do something,"he says, "I am in an advantageous position and through my faith I believe I am out there for a reason. The Lord is going to use me in some way and if I can help destroy some of the stigma around epilepsy that is one way."

Rhodes' epilepsy which was brought on by a blow to the head prevented him following his father into rugby and also denied him indulging a love of football (he prefers Manchester United). But cricket was okay if not entirely safe—in late 1991 an Allan Donald bouncer resulted in a night at the hospital—his last scare was the concussion brought about by a bouncer from Devon Malcolm on their tour of England, at The Oval

when it struck his helmet. He had to wobble out of the field with a dry mouth and a blinding headache.

"It was a nasty blow," Rhodes recalled, "without any head protection, there is no doubt that I might have had something worse. The Good Lord saved me and I was in the thick of action just within a few days."

Rhodes' public espousal of his faith might prompt a mild uneasiness in a predominantly secular society like India's but it sits more readily in South Africa. About 40 per cent of the country are church going Christians and Rhodes is one of the six in the present squad to hold regular prayer meetings. "Having so many of us has helped you go through some tough

Don't let that smile fool you! Once he's there in the middle, Rhodes is always ready to de battle for South Africa





Always the darling of the crowds, Rhodes went cybersurfing with his fans while in India

times emotionally on tours and my faith has grown since I have been in the team," he adds.

So too has his awareness of the iniquities of the country he grew up in. Just as visiting India has enabled him to appreciate the privileges of his upbringing, so have his coaching



sessions in black townships shown him how those advantages were denied to so many South Africans. "During the state of emergency, (when Rhodes was in his mid-teens) you did not go into townships and there was nothing on TV," he says. "You just assumed that they were happy living in the townships. It is wonderful that people now know what it is like and things are changing.

Several years ago, only white English-speaking South Africans supported us, now the whole country does. Cricket, more than any other traditional sport, has crossed the racial barriers. The efforts in the townships have been sincere and a percentage of the players' pool goes to developing cricket there,"confirms Rhodes.

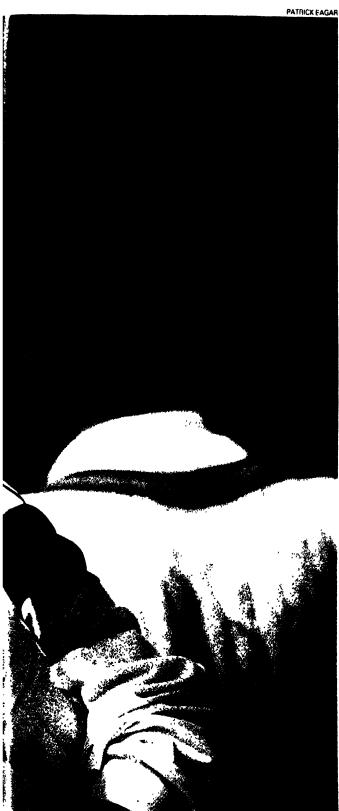
An excellent ambassador of not only his country and his faith Jonty

Rhodes is equally, may be more fiercely, committed to his side but rather more appropriately channelised. He'll certainly enliven the cricket series that lies ahead with his brilliant, often breathtaking fielding exploits coupled with determined batsmanship. And will most certainly give rise to these following words from the confused batsmen: 'Yes. No. Wait. Sorry'.

UNPREDICTABLY PRI



ICTABLE



That's SALIM MALIK for you. Dogged by controversies and bad form, he has confounded everyone by playing a major role in Pakistan's cricketing fortunes

BY GUL HAMEED BHATTI

history of Pakistan cricket will be written sometime in the future, one wonders what place will be occupied in it by Salim Malik, especially when he is surrounded by names and listings of such luminaries as Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, et al Will he be remembered with reverence? Will he be placed in a hall of fame listing him as one of the best, most prolific batsmen in Pakistan cricket? Or will he be looked down upon as someone who was once involved in a bribery scandal, someone who was willing away to sell his country's honours for a few thousand dollars in return?

Salim Malik, otherwise a quiet, somewhat self-centred, introverted sort of a person, has been called names by all sorts of people during his cricketing career which has spanned almost 18 years. Imran Khan, that self-styled 'judge' of all players, dubbed him a 'flat track bully' when Malik was making runs in abundance at all levels of the game. Salim Malik kept on proving the former Pakistan skipper wrong time and time again.

Peter Roebuck on the other hand has called him 'Salim Malik of the silken touch' describing his off-side strokes as being executed by a batsman who is a prince among his kind, someone who finds it immensely comfortable to send even the first ball that he faces at the crease sailing towards the boundary through the covers with not even a full swing of the bat.

In 1982, when he had earned his first cap for Pakistan, he started off with a century on his Test debut. When he kept on piling runs against the touring England team of 1983-84, he was immediately confirmed by writers as the best young batsman on the circuit. Over the years, he has continued scoring runs for his country, at all levels of the game, and taking wickets with his incredibly slow, sometimes unplayable leg-cutters that have proved immensely useful for Pakistan. And today, even when he is nearly 34, he is one of the best outfielders in the national team.

Malik became Pakistan's skipper by default in 1994 following a players' revolt against Wasim Akram's

Though Malik tried to shield himself from controversies, they always remained an essential part of his career

A. A.

GOLD

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BENSON & HEDGES

AVAILABLE IN DUTY FREE.



Once Malik finds his rhythm, his batting is a very delightful sight for any cricket lover

leadership. He then went on to become one of the country's more successful captains. Within one year though he was brought down to earth with a crash, when news of the alleged bribery scandal hit world headlines, which placed Malik as the main accused who was supposed to have offered big money to a couple of Australian players to 'throw' a 1994-95 Test in Karachi. Not only was Malik deposed as captain he also lost his place in the national side.

A few months later, after having undergone an unspecified, unexplained ban, Malik was absolved of all charges by Justice Fakhruddin G.Ebrahim, a former Attorney-General of Pakistan and Governor of Sindh. The accusers wouldn't come forward with more details about the case so it was literally thrown out of court.

Thankfully, Malik hadn't lost much time while he was 'serving time' on the sidelines. He returned to the team as an ordinary playing member and did take time to settle down. Thankfully however, it didn't take long for him to regain his golden touch and, once again, he is serving the Pakistan team with the best of his abilities—he is scoring runs prolifically and bagging useful wickets whenever he is given the ball by his captain.

So, where does Malik stand now? Before the Pakistanis played Sri Lanka in the Kenyan Four-Nation Tournament in Nairobi, Malik had played more one-day internationals (236) than any other Pakistani, having surpassed Javed Miandad (233) as the most capped player for his country. At the Test match level, Malik with 90 appearances is second only to Miandad's record of 124 Tests.

In both these classes of cricket, only Miandad remains ahead of Malik regarding the number of runs scored. In Test matches, he now has a total of 5,101 runs (avg 45.14) as compared to Miandad's 8,832, while in one-day internationals, the gap is closer as Malik has scored 6,032 (avg 33.51) and still has an active career, in comparison to Miandad who made 7,381 runs before finally calling it a day earlier this year.

As a 15-year-old from Lahore, way back in 1978-79, Salim Malik had earned his first national outing when he toured Sri Lanka and India with the Pakistan Under-19 team. In 1981-82, he captained the under-19 team on a trip to Australia, and later joined the senior Pakistan national side which was on tour Down Under. He appeared in a World Series Cup match against the West Indies in Sydney, and was dismissed for a duck, but his Test debut was set for two months later.

Malik's Test baptism came about as a result of a players' revolt. When several top team members opted out of the 1981-82 home series against Sri Lanka, criticising the continued presence of Javed Miandad as captain, Salim Malik was one of the fresh youngsters inducted into the team. And, at the age of 18 years and 328 days, he became the youngest player ever to score a

century on Test debut when he made an unbeaten 100 in the first match in Karachi.

After appearing in the second Test in Faisalabad, Malik was one of the players dropped in favour of the returning rebels for the third Test in Lahore. Then, for a while, Malik found it difficult to return to the playing XI. He toured England in the summer of 1982 but his services were not required either for the Tests or the one-day internationals. At home, during the subsequent series against Australia, he continued to view the Tests from the dressing room.

He was back into the side for the rubber against India in the same season and was retained for all the six Tests. However, apart from scoring 107 in Faisalabad, his contributions in three other outings to the crease were just 6,3 and 6.

Following an uneasy tour of India in 1983-84, he was a late inductee on the trip to Australia soon after. He had missed the first two Tests but he was to herald his return to the Test scene with an admirable 77 in the third match in Adelaide. This was followed by scores of 35 and 14 in Melbourne and 54 and 7 in the fifth and final Test in Sydney. Then, at home in the 1983-84 series against England, he made 322 runs in six innings, which included a match double of 116 and 76 in Faisalahad.

While the world announced the arrival of a world class batsman, there were sceptics at home who believed that Salim Malik had been made to look good judged only on his performances on Pakistan soil. Years later, Imran dubbed him as a 'flat track bully', a sobriquet Malik has had a tough time to shed.

Of course, he was a more productive batsman while playing at home during the 1980s. Three of his five Test hundreds until the year-end in 1984 had been scored at the batsmen's paradise of the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad and the other two had come in Karachi. But then he had played as many as 16 of his first 21 Tests in Pakistan. Still, however, it took him nearly three years to get his first Test hundred outside the country, when he made 102 in the record Pakistan total of 708 at the Oval on the 1987 tour.

Of course, what skipper Imran conveniently seemed to have pushed to the back of his mind was Malik's sterling 99 in the third Test in Leeds where England were beaten by an innings margin and Pakistan then went on to clinch the five-match rubber 1-0.

Some time earlier also Malik had risen to the occasion, when after injuring his left arm by a rising fast ball in the 1986-87 Faisalabad Test against the West Indies, he returned to bat at No.11 in the second innings and helped Wasim Akram (66) add to the woes of the Windies. The visitors from the Caribbean crashed to their record lowest total of 53 in the final innings and lost by a big margin.

Salim Malik continued to excel on home grounds in the subsequent years and his success can be judged

At 33, Malik still has a lot of cricket left in him

by the fact that, by the end of 1991, eight of his nine hundreds had come in Tests played in Pakistan. Then, however, in spite of a pathetic performance in Pakistan's triumph at the 1992 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, where Imran had shunted him up and down the order unnecessarily, Malik was ready to prove his detractors wrong. He had cut a sorry figure in the World Cup final against England where he was sent in at No.8 with just one ball of the 50 overs remaining. He took a wild swing at that last delivery and ran, only to see Man of the Match Wasim Akram getting run out. It was time for Malik to desperately improve his image.

He did so in the summer tour to England that followed. Imran had finally bid goodbye to international cricket, but Malik would definitely have wanted him to have stayed on for just that tour so that Imran could witness Malik's growing stature in international cricket first hand.

Malik had spent the 1991 season in England playing for Graham Gooch's Essex, and his presence helped them to win the English County Championship title. Malik scored 1,891 runs in the 22 Championship matches at a monumental average of 78.79 with the help of six hundreds and eight fifties. This was almost 700 more than anyone else had managed from among the Essex line-up.

In '91 from the first Test in Birmingham, Malik made his intentions known through a grand 165, batting with his usual calm and grace. Malik who was the vice-captain on that England tour, played his best cricket in the fourth Test in Leeds which Pakistan actually lost. He remained unbeaten in both innings, for returns of 82 and 84, fighting almost single-handedly. With his selective mix of caution and sudden bouts of aggression Malik had shown that he could take charge of any situation.

Then his form slumped yet again and as a result missed six consecutive Tests after having excelled in England. When Zimbahwe arrived in Pakistan in the season of 1993-94, Malik was not in contention for the Tests though, ironically, he had just returned from a tour of Sharjah and then proceeded to play in all three home one-day internationals against the Zimbabweans.

The man who was not wanted by the Test team for almost a whole year, then had another surprise waiting for him. A players' revolt against skipper Wasim Akram meant that a compromise candidate had to be found to replace him on the impending 1993-94 tour of New Zealand. Malik had the luck of the draw and, then, another year went by with him at the helm.

Although Malik proved himself to be a successful captain, the road in front of him was a bumpy one. His batting prowess improved considerably during this period, the only hiccup being a loss against South Africa



in the inaugural Test match between the two countries. However much was made out of the first Test defeat in Zimbabwe although the team returned home triumphant after having won the next two matches and the series.

There were insinuations that Salim had sold out to the bookies. Allegations were made that the side deliberately lost the Test in Zimbabwe. Wicketkeeper Rashid Latif's 'withdrawal' and subsequent 'retirement' from international cricket didn't help matters much. At that stage on the African tour, early last year, Rashid had not come out with a full explanation for his actions, but the rumblings of a distant storm could be heard.

It was confirmed later that Rashid didn't see eye to eye with several members of the team on certain 'matters of principle'. He was vice-captain of the team on the tour, and he had felt that Malik and manager Intikhab Alam were bent upon sidelining him and deliberately kept the more important decisions all to

Even though Malik has been exonerated from the bribery charges, there still lurks the germ of a doubt in many sceptical minds

themselves. At about the same time, an Australian newspaper disclosed another shocker that was to turn Malik's cricketing life on its head.

Malik was named as the major conspirator in a situation that was soon to turn into a major scandal. Australian spin bowlers Shane Warne and Tim May mentioned his name as the 'Mr Big' who had offered them US\$50,000 each if they 'threw' the Karachi Test between the two countries played in September-October 1994.

Whatever may have prompted that unsavoury incident, it appeared strange that during the same series against Australia, Malik was playing his best Test cricket in years. The match that the Australians had been allegedly asked to 'throw' turned out to be one of the most exciting in history. Set 314 runs to win, Pakistan batted on for 106.1 overs to post 315 but they reached the target with only their last pair at the crease.

The next two Tests ended as drawn. In Rawalpindi, dropped at 20 by his rival captain Mark Taylor, Malik went on to a mammoth 237. His epic innings lasted 460 minutes and included 37 fours, and ended in dramatic style when debutant fast bowler Damien Fleming claimed him as the third victim of a hat-trick.

By then the skipper had done his duty. Pakistan had followed on as they were dismissed for 260 facing Australia's first innings score of 521. In their second outing, thanks to Malik, Pakistan piled up 537 runs and saved the match. In the third Test in Lahore, he hit another match-saving knock—143 in 314 minutes with 19 fours—and took his aggregate to 557 runs (avg 92.93), a record for a three-Test series between these two sides.

While the verdict of the case against him kept on delaying, and the special enquiry committee had still not been formed, Malik, his brother-in-law Ijaz Ahmed and his favoured off-spinner Akram Raza (though the charges against the other two were never specified) remained on the fringes and missed the entire home series against Sri Lanka in 1995-96. Even their employers, Habib Bank, refused to pick them for domestic cricket matches.

The Pakistanis were already well into the Australian tour late last year when Malik was absolved of all misdeeds. He was sent Down Under in time for the first Test amidst much media hype and, although he didn't immediately regain his batting touch, thankfully there was no confrontation between him and his accusers and he sort of sailed back into the main-stream.

Since his return, Malik has proved himself to be one of the most consistent of Pakistan's batsmen. In 20 one-day internationals in 1996, till the end of the trip to Canada, he had scored 564 runs at an average of 47. His bowling continues to improve and his run out of



Azharuddin in one of the Toronto matches proved he hasn't lost a bit of his speed and accuracy even at the age of 33.

At The Oval in late August, Malik made an exact unbeaten 100 in the Test which Pakistan won and with it the rubber. Salim had scored his first century in 10 Tests but he was surely on his way back to the top.

Before the tour of England had begun, Imran Khan wrote about Malik in the July edition of the 'Wisden Cricket Monthly': "The most experienced player in the squad. Very talented, and entertaining, but always unpredictable—you could never depend on him. He didn't get a big score in Australia but he looked very confident. But he's 33 now, which means he should be at his peak."

Yes, Malik may still be unpredictable, but his recent knocks have shown that now nine times out of ten you can depend upon him too. And captain Wasim Akram is not complaining either.

COURTESY THE PAKISTAN CRICKETER

OUT IN THE COLD

RAJESH CHAUHAN, who has been ignored by the selectors for quite sometime, hopes to perform well in the domestic circuit and earn a recall into the national side

HE question cropped up during an animated discussion with Peter Roebuck at Eden Gardens the evening before the opening Test match of the 1992-93 series against England. Why does a country, which not so long ago produced Prasanna and Venkataraghavan, no longer give birth to quality off-spinners? ---Roebuck wondered aloud as the conversation veered from English cricketing woes to Indian miseries. You are preparing low and slow turning pitches tailor-made for spinners and yet there is no offie to exploit the conditions...how come? he reasoned.

That stumped the three of us (Indian journalists) who were, till then, quite enjoying the exchanges with the former Somerset captain (turned journalist), widely acknowledged to possess one of England's most shrewd cricketing brains. Noticing us struggle for an explanation, Roebuck was sporting enough to cut short our discomfort. "How good is your new guy? Maybe, he'll provide the answer," Roebuck said, pointing at Rajesh Chauhan who was striving to make an impression at the nets a few yards away.

We were reluctant to share Roebuck's optimism, not having seen Chauhan bowl before. By the time the Test was over, though, Rajesh Chauhan was no more an outsider who had got into the Indian team mainly through the recommendation of his Madhya Pradesh coach Sandeep Patil. In his very first Test, the tall off-spinner had bowled well enough to draw comparisons with his legendary predecessors.

Roebuck, for one, was impressed and he made it a point to mention that before leaving Calcutta. "This chap has got a nice loop... somewhat like Pras. He spins the ball too," remarked Roebuck, hinting that Chauhan was here to stay. Not many disagreed with that post-match assessment.

But something went terribly wrong somewhere along the way. So much so that three years after that inspiring five-wicket Test debut at the Eden, Chauhan was dumped from the national squad prior to the Wills World Cup earlier this year. The selectors were disillusioned with what Chauhan had given them in return for the faith they had reposed in him for a considerably long period. And one look at his stats is enough to realise that the selectors were not being unfair: just 33 wickets from 13 matches at an average of 34.87 in Tests and 21 victims at 34 apiece from 20 games in one-day Internationals.

Delving a tad deeper into those cold figures, one finds that as many as nine of his 13 Tests were played on home pitches crafted to suit Chauhan & Co. And what does he do in those nine matches against opposition like England, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and the West Indies? Well, he manages two-and-a-half wickets per Test without coming close to a five-wicket

haul even once. The Nagpur Test of the 1994-95 series against the Caribbeans brought out the worst in the off-spinner and perhaps signalled his death-bell.

With India already having won the first Test of the three-match series in Mumbai, Courtney Walsh's team was greeted by a vicious turner in the second Test at Nagpur. It was as good a chance as any to wrap up a rare series triumph against the West Indies. Yet, the three-man Indian spin army preferred to be magnanimous hosts and remain paper tigers, as they let Brian Lara & Co. off the hook with one of the most insipid performances in recent years. Kumble, Raju and Chauhan all flopped, but it was the off-spinner who topped the charts returning dismal figures of 39-12-112-1 from the drawn match.

"That was the lowest point in my career graph," Chauhan concedes. "None of us bowled well...Jimmy Adams sorted us out with his excessive pad-play I couldn't turn out to be the match-winner they perhaps expected me to be." Chauhan has not played another Test after that Nagpur debacle. And he was soon out of the one-day squad, too. He did figure among the World Cup probables list, but did not quite make it to the final 14. And now the man, who was till just the other day the country's number one off-spinner, is a all but a non-entity in Indian cricket, lost in the maze of also-rans and hoping to perform strongly in the domestic

circuit and earn a recall to the national side.

Hope. That's what Chauhan is living with now, as would any sportsperson in his shoes. "I am more determined now than ever before...I'm mentally prepared to slog it out in the Ranji and Duleep Trophy, take loads of wickets and make useful runs so that I can make my presence felt once again," says Chauhan, the first (and so far the lone) Test cricketer from the steel city of Bhilai.

He may have spurned a glorious opportunity of sealing his berth in the national team, but as far as attitude is concerned, Chauhan is spot on. The 29-year-old son of former Bihar spinner Govind Chauhan knows that performance is the key to a possible comeback. "I want to get back on the strength of my performance only... I know I got dropped because I didn't perform to expectations. That's where I've got to concentrate," analyses Chauhan, one of the most important members of the Madhya Pradesh Ranji team.

The fact that the national selectors ignored him totally at the start of a packed international season has not gone unnoticed. His name didn't feature in the Rest of India (Irani Trophy), India A, India B (Challenger Trophy) or the Board President's XI (against the touring Australians) squads, which provided ample opportunity to scores of India hopefuls. "I would be lying if I say I didn't expect to be in at least one of those teams...but if one starts losing sleep over such things, you may end up losing focus of what you aim to do. Disappointments are part of life, you've got to take them in your stride."

What still keeps the amibition burning is the knowledge that the country still hasn't discovered a champion off-spinner. Aashish Kapoor, his successor, is not the match-winning type and there are many who feel that Chauhan is better than his rival from Punjab. "Some of the Pakistani cricketers I met while playing in the Hong Kong Sixes tournament recently said they were surprised I was not in the World Cup

PRADEEP MANDHANI



team... But it's the selectors' thoughts which matter ultimately, isn't it?"

Chauhan is intelligent enough to realise that in modern cricket, where the accent is so much on the limited overs version, the ability to chip in with the bat is a major plus for a bowler. "I think that's one reason why I got chucked from the one-day team. I didn't get as many runs in tight situations as they would have liked me to." Chauhan is right. That's where Kapoor has the edge over him.

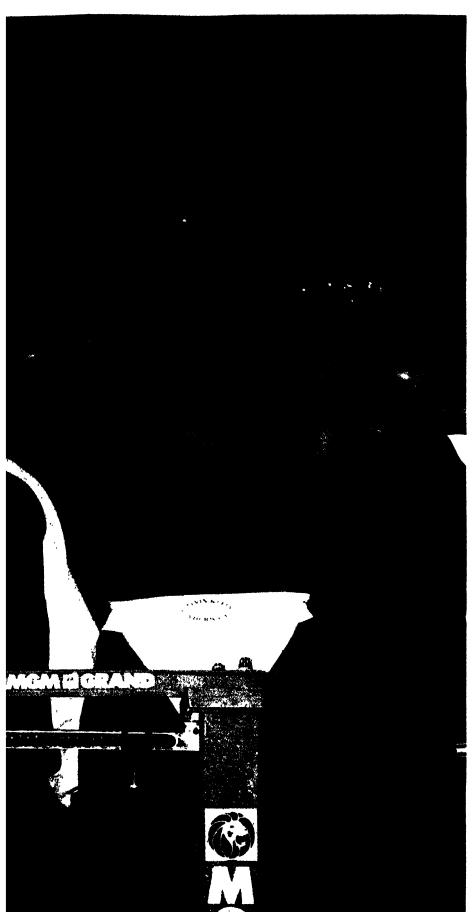
Even if Chauhan manages to be more penetrative in his bowling and sharpen his batting, there still is a major problem. In Kumble and Joshi, India already have two spinning allrounders who seem to be settled members in both a Test and one-day XI. The scope to field a third spinner

'I am more determined now than ever before...I'm mentally prepared to slog it out in the Ranji and Duleep Trophy, take loads of wickets and make useful runs so that l can make my presence felt once again" --Raiesh Chauhan

will not come very often, especially on the pace-friendly wickets on foreign soil.

But, then again, Chauhan will reason that's nothing new. And the optimist in Chauhan will say till there's life, there's hope...

Amitava Dasgupta



"Fear is like fire. If you can control it, it will cook for you, heat your house. If you can't control it, it will burn everything around you and destroy you."

—Cus D'Amato. Tyson's former trainer and mentor

theory to his protege to bring about the amazing successes of Tyson the Intimidator. Far from fearing others, he intimidated and then terminated his opponents, till of course a remarkably brave man called Holyfield came by and stood in his way, overcoming the fear that made other lesser mortals rigid and speechless everytime they entered the ring to face Tyson.

And, mind you, Evander Holyfield had more than just Mike Tyson to be afraid of. He had his own health and fitness, under the scanner. Before the fight with Tyson, Holyfield had to undergo a series of tests at a clinic to be sure about his fitness, after earlier scares about a heart condition.

Even Mike Tyson himself expressed his concerns about Holyfield's health. He obviously hoped that his sympathies and concerns would soften Holyfield's resolve and might even begin to scare him about the consequences of fighting Terrible Tyson with a suspect heart condition. But it did not work; it was not likely to, because Holyfield is a genuine fighter and he provided ample proof of that, when in his last outing he had Riddick Bowe on the floor.

Holyfield is a man of remarkable courage, but this time, perhaps, it was the fear of humiliation, of being branded a victim of his own suspect health condition that worked like the fire that D'Amato had said would "cook for you, heat your house", if controlled. Against Tyson, Holyfield showed remarkable aggression

FEAR IS THE KEY

Sometimes it is fear and a healthy respect that can make the wheel turn around. Evander Holyfield had the attitude of a champion. Mike Tyson that of a wimp and a fraud

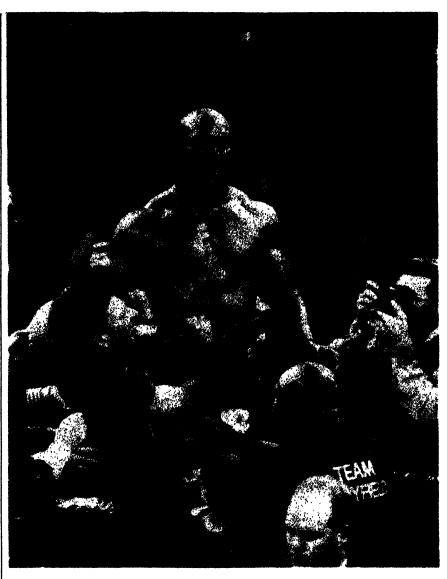
harnessed with control.

So, this fight was a far cry from the one that Bruce Seldon had put up before surrendering his WBA heavyweight title in 109 petrified seconds, adding his own name to a long list of top-grade fighters who found themselves numb with fear while facing their ultimate nemesis, Mike Tyson. Frank Bruno, Michael Spinks and all who went through the ritual of slighting their opponents, but gave up with little resistance when the time came.

This was expected of Holyfield too, especially by those who did not know the man well enough. But Holyfield had different ideas; he wanted to surprise himself, his critics and Tyson. It indeed was a rare sight that Tyson the Terrible was being pushed around the ring bloodied and breathless, by a man who many feared would collapse on the mat with an acute chest pain. This time the pain was all Tyson's, not just the extreme physical pain inflicted by his unfancied opponent, but also the pain of being reminded that his plan did not work.

About a decade ago when Tyson set out to conquer the heavyweight world, his mentors and aides had reckoned that it would be in Tyson's best interest to wipe out all opposition thereby establishing himself as the undisputed king of heavyweight boxing and then retire, for six to seven years, allowing for a reasonable period of time for an entirely new generation of challengers to emerge. Once that happened, they reckoned, Tyson should wake up from his hibernation and prey upon those 'new' guys with renewed vigour and a vengeance unknown in boxing history.

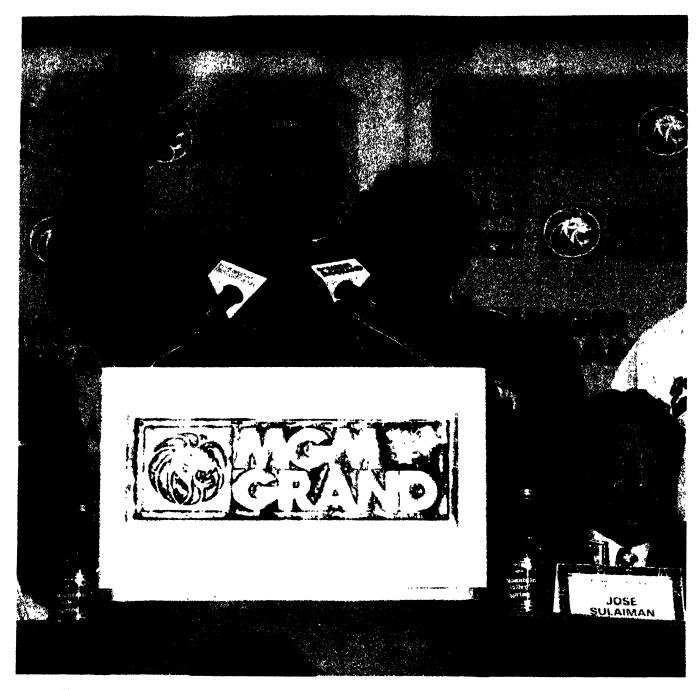
Circumstances, though not entirely



A triumphant but controlled 'Real Deal' Holyfield after creating one of the biggest boxing upsets in history

happy ones, did provide a number of intervening years, putting Tyson away in jail for rape, but the rest of the plan now seems to have gone haywire, now that the 'ailing'

Holyfield has floored Tyson. The iron fists that once again threatened to suffocate the boxing world, the punch that made a hole through the hardboard wall of the Atlantic City dressing room just to intimidate Spinks, who had been waiting there for the dreaded call, have now met their match and more.



And all this happened at a time when Tyson seemed to be running out of opponents and serious challengers. Riddick Bowe, once highly rated and respected as a worthy challenger cut a rather unimpressive figure against Andrew Golota and lost his image. Seldon's meek surrender provided further proof that the dressing room demons accompanied him right up to the ring and ultimately brought about his demolition. Frank Bruno seemed almost relieved that his title was

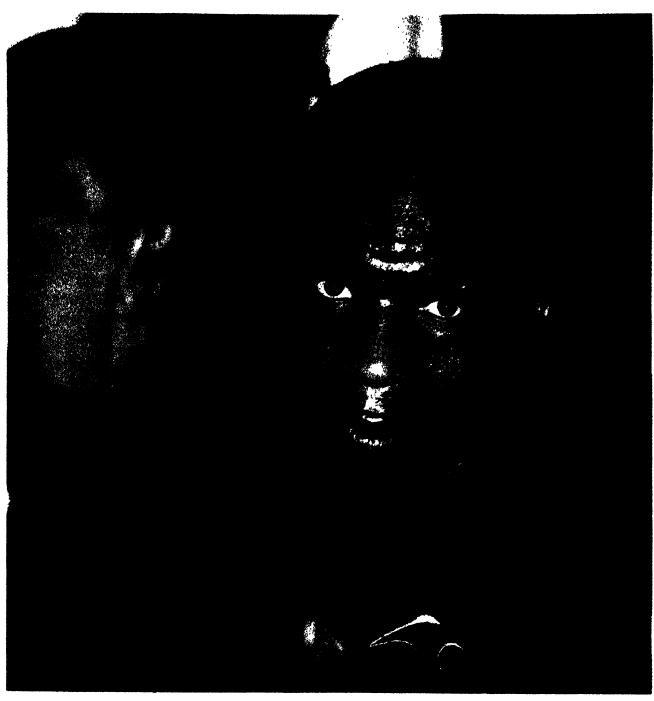
snatched away by Tyson so swiftly, without too much fuss, and blood.

But as far as Tyson is concerned the problem of running out of opponents has great financial implications. The money machine simply cannot be brought to a halt. And to ensure that the machine ran incessently in a world of depleting challengers and fighters, the choice fell on Holyfield, who everyone knew was rather suspect as far as his fitness was concerned.

Tyson at a weighing-in. Trying to humiliate opponents with his untamed aggression

In fact, there are not many instances of a boxer coming out of a heart clinic and immediately facing one of the fiercest and most ruthless fighters in the world, whose speciality over the years had been the speed with which he 'executed' his challengers.

In fact, the very idea of such a bout was seen as cynical. A section of the



media even complained that this fight was being organised in utter disregard for an old champ's welfare and reputation. "Evander Holyfield has been recruited to be the fall guy," one critic said.

But Holyfield himself must not have agreed with them, and the fact that he did not became evident when he entered the ring facing Tyson.

Tyson knew, almost immediately, that his sympathies were misplaced, his concerns unfounded. This 'heart

patient' was not only hale and hearty, but fearsome enough to even unnerve him—a feeling Mike Tyson is not quite familiar with.

The rest, of course, is history. History that is unlikely to be forgotten very easily by those who watched the bout between Tyson and Holyfield. Other than those who choose to fight Tyson for the sake of money, there are very few boxers who would like to be humiliated in front of a world-wide audience of millions. So you can

Most boxing experts will agree that Tyson is a boxer with little or no technical strengths

imagine how painful it must have been for Tyson to suffer the ignominy of being beaten to pulp by a man who had almost been his object of pity.

And the moral of this whole unbelievable drama can only be: don't you ever underestimate your enemy, let alone pity him, especially when he fears you. Holyfield feared Tyson: he won. Tyson did not; he lost. PHOTOGRAPHS ACTION PLUS

EURO SOCCER DIARY

CZECH



While Karel Poborsky is yet to settle down, his compatriot Patrick Berger has clicked in the English Premier League

FTER their stunning performances in the 1996 European Championships in London, two Czech Republic players, dashing winger Karel Poborsky and scheming left sided midfielder Patrick Berger were both snapped up by Premier League clubs in England. The long-haired Poborsky joined the League and F.A. Cup champions Manchester United and 22-year-old Berger after protracted negotiations moved to the most famous club in the city of the Beatles, Liverpool F.C.

Their arrival in England was not hailed with the same fanfare as that of Ossie Ardilles and Ricky Villa for Tottenham Hotspur(Spurs) in 1979. However there are certain similarities. Way back in 1979, English scribes expected Villa to excel in the demanding English league as he was taller and stronger. Instead the nippy but wily Ardilles shone. Similarly, Poborsky with his speed was considered most suitable for the Premier League but instead it is the technically perfect but it's slower Berger who has stolen the glory.

Poborsky was an expected superstar, with his bewitching dribbling skills and sudden bursts of speed. It was felt that Manchester United had got a better deal. Initially, Berger's coming to Liverpool was

A delighted Poborsky (white) after scoring for the Czech Republic egainst Portugal in EURO '36. But the dashing winger is yet to prove himself on English soil

MATES

nearly stalled as his previous club, Borussia Dortmund kept increasing their demands. The German league champions did not want Berger to leave. However, the talented, well-built Czech and his wife Jarka were unsettled in Dortmund, especially as they struggled to learn the German language. Also Berger had another reason to switch allegiance as he was often kept on the bench. Many of his 27 appearances for Borussia, were as a substitute which, Berger felt his talents did not warrant. Hence the Czech player had to make that important decision: to cross the English Channel.

Liverpool's wily coach Roy Evans also appreciated Berger's ability and skills. So despite initial refusals and nagging doubts he persisted and finally obtained the player as he felt the Czech would give greater variety and new attacking options to his already impressive squad. Evan's faith was justified.

Midway through the English season, it is Berger and not his more talented Czech Republic teammate Poborsky who has hogged the limelight. England's football scribes are raving about his abilities. They state that few foreign players have made the sort of impact in the Premiership that Berger Has made since signing from Borussia Dortmund.

Evans realises that Berger is a multi-purpose player. He is equally adept as either a deep-lying midfield schemer or an attacking player who can operate just off the front line. Berger has the knack of drifting into attacking positions and can shoot well with both feet. He uses his build to shield the ball well and is not easily flustered by tight marking defenders.

Above all, Berger is rated for his goal-scoring knack. He has given Liverpool a new dimension with his goals from midfield. Last season,

Liverpool's prolific strikers Robbis Fowler and Stan Collymore scored 55 goals but their midfielders rarely scored. However, Berger has already scored several goals for Liverpool in the Premier League and the European Cup Winners' Cup.

His goal-scoring ability, attractive play and charismatic personality have made him the darling of Merseyside. Not since John Barnes at his peak in Berger has settled well in Liverpool and has moved into a new house in Merseyside. He is from an urban background, is not homesick and has adjusted well to the new surroundings. In contrast, Poborsky who is from a rural background, has still not settled in Manchester. His form for the English league champions has been unsettled.

Although only 22 years, Berger



Patrick Berger, who has already scored many goals for Liverpool FC, is now a derling of Merseyside

the late 1980s, has a Liverpool player enjoyed such adulation as Patrick Berger.

The highly-rated Berger appreciates the singing and special ambience of English stadiums. In fact, both Berger and Poborsky, who are good friends, made the decision to play in the Premiership after experiencing English stadia and crowds first hand during Euro '96.

has played 21 times for his country and scored nine international goals. He has already won a League title in Germany with Dortmund. He moved to the Bundesliga champions in the summer of 1995 after spells with both Prague clubs, Sparta and Slavia. Now he intends to stay long with Liverpool, a club he supported since childhood. Time will tell if he can help his new club revive past glories.

THE BRAVE & THE INSPIRATIONAL

There are some tennis players who buckle under their personal problems. There are others who try to rise above it. We're talking about Monica Seles

BY PAUL FEIN

Therefore in fierce tempest he is coming In thunder and in earthquake, like a Jove

The life of Monica Seles seemed much like a fairy tale after she became tennis' youngest-ever No.1 at 17 and the winner of seven of her last eight grand slams by whipping archrival Steffi Graf in the scintillating '93 Australian Open final. "I remember thinking that things couldn't be better," she said in her autobiography. Just three months later though, she was stabbed by a deranged fan, and it would take her far longer to recover from her deep depression than from the knife wound on her back.

Pulling off arguably the greatest comeback in sports history, Seles returned to the tour with a vengeance in August 1995 after being sidelined for 28 months. Seles summoned the same courage and resilience that basketball legend Wilt Chamberlain

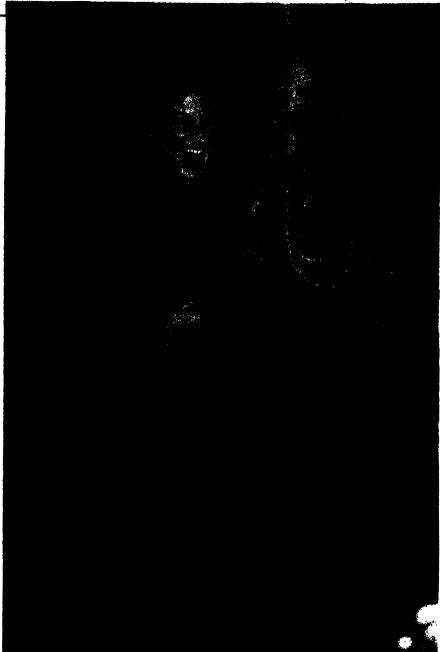
Seles' comeback could well qualify as the biggest in modern sports history



said made her "the most competitive athlete I've ever seen," and exorcised the demons that haunted her. After crushing a stellar field at the Canadian Open, she reached the final of the U.S Open final a month later where she lost a 7-6, 0-6, 6-3 masterpiece to Graf. Flamboyant, mysterious and controversial—like her idol Lenglen—Seles completed her comeback trail by winning the 1996 Australian Open despire several major injuries. Ultimately, Seles' spirit could not be broken.

Similarly, singing star Gloria Estefan ascending career could have tragically ended when her tour bus crashed in 1990. Estefan underwent four hours of delicate surgery to repair the damage to her back. She also endured countless hours of physical therapy before regaining some of the movement she had enjoyed prior to the accident. Courage and perseverance brought Estefan back. "Life is just a dangerous place. I think that perhaps that bus accident was my destiny. But what came from the accident was totally in my control," Estefan acknowledged. "How I deal with the accident, how my life was shaped from it." Estefan feels that the accident helped her recognise the value of people in her life. The accident has brought her family closer together as well as renew her enthusiasm for performing. Her command performance at the Vatican in 1995 and her new song Reach, the official song for the Atlanta Games, revitalised her brilliant career.

The inspiring stories of Seles and Estefan demonstrate the strength of character that made their careers so outstanding also saved their imperiled careers. It also suggests that the circumstances of today's stars of the court and of the film and music industries are closely related. It's no coincidence that legendary actress Katharine Hepburn, who yearned to be a tennis star once wrote to Martina Navratilova,"What a terrifying, but thrilling life you have." Nor is it surprising that tennis players, film directors and rock stars are the heroes of Salman Rushdie, the author



ACCOCIATED BREC

of Satanic Verses, who has been in hiding since he became the target of a death decree by Ayatollah Khomeini.

Conversely, consummate showman Tilden, who used to intentionally fall behind lesser players just so he could pull a theatrical, albeit contrived, comeback was an enthusiastic but inept leading man and director in his little neighbourhood theatre efforts in Germantown and even briefly on Broadway. Vijay Amritraj, the charming 1970s standout from India, was much more successful starring as Roger Moore's sidekick in the James Bond movie Octopussy, and on two

Gloria Estefan's (seen here with her wax lookalike) accident helped her gain a new perspective to life as was the case with Seles

television series, The Last Precinct and What A Country.

More recently, McEnroe, Pat Cash, Yannick Noah and Mats Wilander have displayed their musical passions—in Noah's case, talent—before live audiences. McEnroe, now the proud owner of an art gallery in New York City, has said that the compliment he treasures the most was when journalists wrote that he played like an "artist."

In The Next Issue: The Madman & The Fool



QUESTIONS

Pete Sampras' racket has served many a missile over the years.
What is the physical tension on his racket?

Steffi Graf has competed on all surfaces and has participated in almost all the tennis tournaments in the world. There is however one tournament that she has always given the miss. Which is this?

Which very famous cricketer scored the first century for England?

Answer to Question No.8

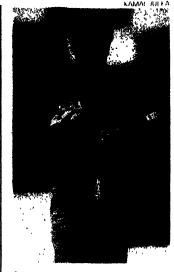
For the first time two rival captains scored centuries in the same Test. Who were the captains and where was the Test played?

Which Pakistani
batsman was
declared out for
obstructing the field when
he was just two short of his
century?

I am one of the most feared and respected bowlers in modern cricket. However, I'm also known as The Burewala Express or the Metla Miracle. Who am

When and where was India dismissed twice in a Test match on the same day?

Who said these very
famous lines about
Chris Evert and stories



Answer to Question No.5

regarding her retirement plans? "You know, ever since I started out on the Tour, she has supposedly been on her last legs. She must be a centipede. What do they have, 100 legs?"

9. Who is regarded as the greatest miler of all time?

Against whom did Australia record their lowest ever Test innings total and what was the score?

ANSWERS

- 1. 32 kilos.
- 2. The Nichirie Ladies Tennis Tournament held in Japan.
- 3. Dr. W.G. Grace. He scored 152 against Australia in 1880 at The Oval.
- 4. H.W.Taylor of South Africa scored 109 while J.Douglas of England scored 119 at Durban in 1913-14.
- 5. Rameez Raja.
- 6. Wagar Younis.
- 7. Against England at Manchester in 1952 for scores of 58 and 82.
- 8. Pam Shriver.
- **9.** Herb Elliot of Australia who recorded 17 sub-four minute wins before he retired early and then came back in the Rome Olympics to win the gold in the 1,500 mts.
- 19. Australia scored 36 in the first innings against England in the 1902 series at Birmingham.

All answers sent in by contributor. Readers are requested to sent in atleast 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quiz.



DHS QUIZHAS BEEN COMPRED BY



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A Day In The Life Of

LESLIE CLAUDIUS



If you're looking to emulate a sporting hero, don't look for him in the glamour and glitz that sports sometimes portrays. Look for him in a world of simplicity and hard work. A simple world. Leslie Claudius' world...

A pictorial tribute

P"HOTOFEATURE"

THE lad from Bilaspur (MP) who shirked school to concentrate on his first love, football and had his parents on tenterhooks with his pranks, turned out to be one of the most gifted hockey players in India...

... LESLIE CLAUDIUS!
Even when he played
good football (and not
hockey) Claudius was
selected to play for the
Bengal-Nagpur Railway
from the Bilaspur 'quota'
in the 1945 IFA Shield. He
then got a job in Kharagpur
(WB) where hockey and
rugby were a craze among
the Anglo Indian
community.

Claudius switched to hockey. Initially, he struggled to make a dent in this sport as there were too many good players in the community. But he is indebted to Dick Carr and company who represented India in the 1936 Olympics. They taught Claudius the rudiments of the game and he soon found his name in the BNR hockey list for the 1946 Beighton Cup.

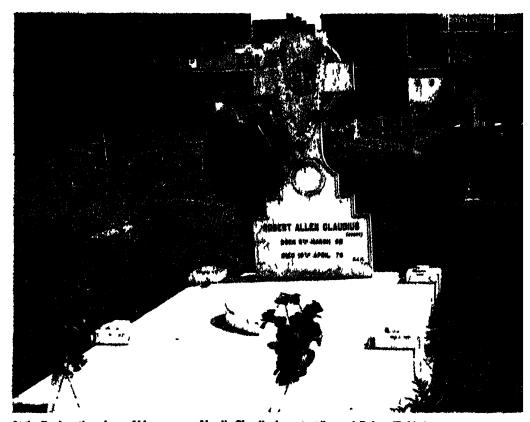
A star was born! One brilliant performance followed another and the media were soon predicting that the young boy from Bilaspur was all set to play for India. Claudius was soon recruited by the Calcutta Port Commissioners who built a strong team.

Claudius was slated to play for Bengal.

Claudius was soon selected for the Olympic selection camp. Then came the biggest break of his life. Leslie Claudius was chosen to play for India in the 1948 London Olympics.



At the recoccurse. Claudius is an avid reco-seer



kt the final resting place of his son, one of Leclic Claudius' greatest 'losses'. Robert 'Bobby' Claudius was a brilliant international hockey player in the mould of his father. He died ander vages arroumstances

Thereafter, there was no looking back. He went from strength to strength, representing India in three more Olympics. He was the first Indian to play in four consecutive Olympics, winning three golds and a silver in his final appearance at Rome in 1960 where India lost for the first time.

Yet with all these feats, Claudius received the Padma Shree ten years after he retired from the Calcutta Customs.

Today, when his contemporaries are getting old, Leslie Claudius, at 69, is getting better. Preferring to live in relative anonymity, Claudius is living life on his terms. And he is living it to the full. Life has dealt him a few good hands and a few bad ones, but Claudius has evaded all these tackles like he once did in his youth. There's always time for one trick more, he believes. The referee hasn't blown the whistle yet.







100

Claudius is a regular at the club where he whiles away his time playing carrom or chatting with triends. Or relaxing with a drink

Middle:

With his youngest son Brandon and his grandchildren

Bottom

A devout Romen Catholic

BOON FOR

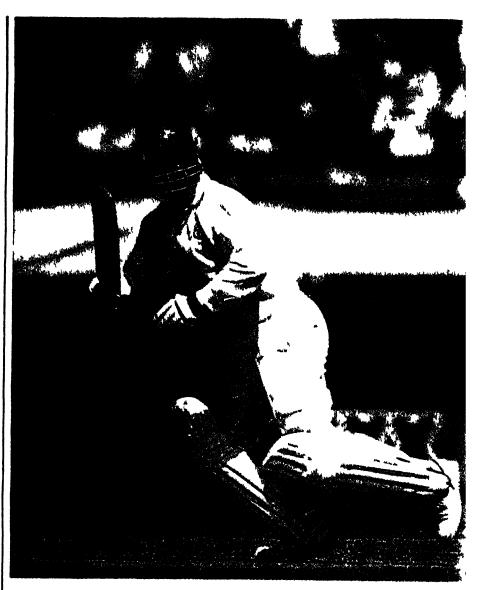
Former Australian batsman DAVID BOON still has his country's cricketing interests on his mind. Which is why he's now vying for the post of national coach

AVID BOON is a busy man these days He is currently on a whistle stop tour of Australian cities --- and every talk show he can appear on -plugging for his autobiography Beneath The Southern Cross In the meantime, he has openly said that he has his eye on Geoff Marsh's job of Australian cricket coach Then following the disastrous Indian tour, the Tasmanian opening batsman was having talks with Australian cricket selectors on a possible comeback Boon had opted for a low profile life last year when he retired from international cricket, but he is back in the heat of it all now

Marsh has been the Australian coach only for a few months, but already his great mate and opening partner Boon is planning to take over the job Boon who opened the batting with Marsh for Australia in Tests and limited over matches before he became an outstanding number three, says coaching Australia "is an ambition I don't think needs to be hidden. If the Australian Board gives me the opportunity to coach Australia, I d jump at the opportunity"

"I reckon that the life span of an Australian coach is between four to five years. At the end of that time I consider that a team needs new direction and fresh concepts."

Boon maintains that he is not undermining his former opening partner, saying he was not particularly concerned that Marsh had yet to taste success with the national side "He's had a rocky start,



David Boon, an outstanding No.3 bataman, has committed himself to playing for Tasmania for the next two seasons

but its a long way from Bangalore to Brisbane

Boon, who turns 36 on December 29, has committed himself to playing for Tasmania for the next two seasons

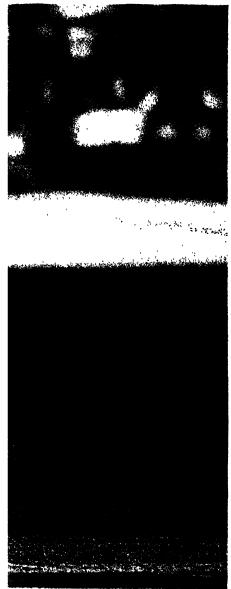
and has accepted the position as captain of English county Durham for the next two years

Boon might have opted for a quiet retirement but he isn't really cruising through it now. His state team, which he captains is struggling in the domestic season here and Durham.

THE AUSSIES

has finished last or near the bottom of the English league for the last five years.

But as Boon says in his new book,



KAMAL JULKA

his life has never been all smooth-sailing. He talks about the difficulty of making it in Australian cricket from the small and almost forgotten state of Tasmania. To illustrate this, he recalls a story of how one Aussie sporting squad once had its blazers and kit done and was ready

to go on their tour. One problem: There were only five states on the logo depicting the Australian map. That little island across the Bass Strait had been forgotten.

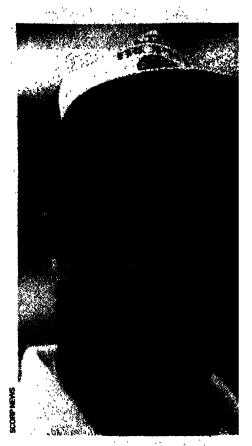
It is the measure of Boon's stature that he has almost singlehandedly built a sporting bridge from Tasmania to mainland Australia. But as he says, his career highlight is not the 107 Tests, the 21 centuries or the run aggregate second only to Allan Border's. It is instead the fact that for most of those Tests, Boon was the man who stood on the dressing room table and led the chorus of the Aussie circket song Beneath The Southern Cross.

The song is a dressing room secret, but we are told that there are a few unprintable words in it. Boon has handed over his role as chief patriot down to Ian Healy after his retirement and has aptly named his biography after the chant.

In his book, Boon talks in length about the fanatical cricket following in India. He recalls how one man told him that he had named his son David in his honour. Boon also recounts a story of how one man insisted on sleeping outside his door to protect him. He recalls how he and Marsh couldn't take more than a few steps outside the Grand Hotel in Calcutta before they were forced to go back after being mobbed by passerbys.

Boon also deals with the success of Australian cricket over the last few years. His theory for success? "I'm a great believer in, the team comes first. If you want to be successful, performance will follow an attitude aimed at the team rather than yourself. The guys who rely on self-motivation—you can spot them a mile off—they don't last and they don't succeed."

One thing for sure, David Boon may have officially retired from the international scene, but he is far from



"I reckon that the life span of an Australian coach is between four or five years. At the end of that time, I consider that the team needs new direction and fresh concepts"

--- DAVID BOON

lost to cricket as Australia is now discovering. So look out for that diminutive man with the thick moustache; either as a Australian player once again, or coach or why even singer-cum-cheer leader. Cricket and David Boon are not parting company just yet! Andy O'Brien, Perth

DRIVING TO THE BANK

Ace driver, Michael Schumacher is all set to become one of the richest sportsmen ever

HERE is a very old notion that exists in the big, bad world of business and money making—that to earn millions you have to invest millions, wait for a gestation period and then start raking in the dough.

But of late, there have been many upstarts who have proved beyond doubt the fallibility of the above theory. These upstarts are armed with nothing more than an overdose of talent, are backed by the right business managers and are excellent in their respective fields. They do not pump in millions to earn the millions—they simply go about doing

their jobs and are very often the best in their respective fields. And a certain Mr. Michael Schumacher is one such upstart who is all set to become a one-man conglomerate.

Now wait...hasn't Schumacher already proved that he is certainly the most talented F1 driver going? Hasn't he already clinched what has been the most lucrative deal ever in the history of Formula One history?

Yes.

Yet, those are only minor side-shows in the Schumacher saga. Michael Schumacher is on the point of signing an extended contract with Ferrari that will help him earn more than a quarter of a billion by the end of the year 2000.

When Ferrari signed Schumacher this season they entrusted him with a very simple brief. That he was to try Michael Schumacher (extreme left) shares the podium with Drivers' Champion Damon Hill (second from right) and Mika Hakkinen (extreme right) after steering Ferrari to the second place in the Constructors' Championship





and get the prestige back into what has been the most glamorous team in F1 racing. Schumacher was highly successful in doing that and in just one year succeeded in getting the second spot in the Constructors' Championship to Ferrari, and that too second only to the legendary Rothmans Williams. Schumacher inspite of the difficulties and technical shortcomings managed to bring back a semblance of pride into what was once the most respected team in Formula One.

Luca Di Montezemolo, the president of Ferrari was so overjoyed by Schumacher's approach to his team that he has tabled a three-year offer to retain his services into the next century. Chances are that the deal will be announced before the unveiling of Ferrari's new car in January next year. Schumacher allegedly, and in private, has agreed to sign the two-year extension which will see him remain in Ferrari till the end of the '99 season. His present contract which earns him \$25 million a year is set to expire at the

You can bet your dear life that you will never see Michael Schumacher so relaxed when he's in the thick of action. In a F1 car Schumacher is a picture of concentration

end of the next season. It was not just Montezemolo who was impressed by Schumacher and his attitude. Gianni Agnelli, the president of Ferrari's parent company Fiat has gone on record saying that, "we will do everything to keep him."

Schumacher for the time being though is playing it very safe and has only come out with a non-committal,"I will stay with Ferrari as long as I am having fun and can be competitive." Considering the millions he will be earning once he signs on the dotted line, it will certainly be fun for the 27-year-old German, Schumacher's new contract will make his annual salary soar to around \$30 million a year, but he could double or even treble that figure just through personal endorsements and sponsorships. Even though Ferrari will meet a substantial part of his salary, part-funding of his wages will also be done by the two main

sponsors of Ferrari—Marlboro and Shell. The latter is only too keen to be associated with Schumacher as it is part of their damage control plans after their Brent Spar oil rig fiasco which saw their image plummet throughout Europe and specially in Germany.

Excluding the above mentioned sponsors F1's most talented driver has a series of high profile sponsors including Nike, Omega and Dekra, all of whom pay him substantial sums for Schumacher to be associated with their products. Formula One's most marketable commodity also endorses a range of products from soft toys to replica overalls that are retailed throughout the world. He is also paid millions to appear in advertisements and earns the upward of \$500,000 from every sponsor placing their logo on his racing overall.

Consider this fact and you'll understand why all the other drivers in the current F1 circuit go green with envy when they hear about Schumacher. In the past one year,



Schumacher's combined income has risen to more than \$70 million a year, a figure that seems astronomical compared to what the other drivers earn. In fact, that was till very recent times what a F1 driver made in his entire career. Add to that, the fact that by the year 2000 he could well have earned in the region of \$300 million!

Schumacher's earnings and his extravagant, though subdued, lifestyle has placed him alongside the likes of Michael 'Air' Jordan and Mike Tyson as one of the best-paid sportsmen in the world today. Incidentally, Schumacher also owns a ten-seater jet (and you thought Andre Agassi and Greg Norman was the only one capable of buying a jet), collects sports cars as a hobby and lives in a house that overlooks Lake Geneva.

The famous personality that endorses everything from soft toys, to watches to replica racing overalls. Schumacher at a launch of one of his main sponsors Omega

Now, if this does not qualify for a place amongst the lifestyles of the rich and the famous, then the other contenders have to try really hard.

Guided by his manager, Willi Weber for the past eight years, who also manages Michael's younger brother Ralf, Schumacher has totally concentrated on his racing while Weber took care of things financial. But Weber feels that there is still a lot of untapped marketing potential as far as Schumacher was concerned. Weber describes his client, "as the perfect driver and he has enough offers to promote Schumacher five times

over." Any other mortal would have fallen head over heels in this sort of a predicament, but Schumacher being the rational man that he is, has realised very early that he has to win races and Drivers' Championships if he is to earn the millions.

That he has been totally focussed on the job is very evident. Inspite of not having a tailor-made car Schumacher has been very impressive in the Ferrari entrusted to him. His driving at the rain-soaked Spanish GP and his win at Ferrari's hometown in Monza won him many new admirers and left the other drivers with a very hollow feeling in their stomachs. Another very impressed man was Ferrari's British designer John Barnard who said, "He's naturally very talented, and naturally very quick. He has the



sort of absolute committment and absolute dedication that it takes to be the world champion. I have worked with Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost and Michael has the same attitude they had."

Weber goes on to elaborate, "Michael has his own style and it is certainly not easy to design for him. (In fact, Schumacher likes his car to be set up with oversteer, a feature that sees the back end snap out as a driver goes through a corner.) We have learnt a lot over the past season and there are certain elements of the new car that have been designed with Michael in mind. He likes to run the car absolutely on a knife edge and catch it when it slips out of line. We have got used to the guy and what he wants. This year, we had to sort out a

Schumacher's pleasant demeanour coupled with his immense talent and success makes him a marketing manager's dream

lot of problems with the car, but next season we should not be in that position."

In the coming season, it will not just be the new Ferrari that will pose problems to the rest of the drivers and their teams. Michael Schumacher has taken it upon himself to revive the spluttering fortunes of Ferrari—they have not won a Constructors' Championship since Jody Scheckter's triumph in 1979, and have not had a realistic chance for the title since Prost raced for them in 1990—and till now has managed to do a very creditable

job for them.

The ultimate accolade that any racing driver worth his salt would like to receive is the approval of racing guru Frank Williams. Schumacher has succeeded in that arena also. Frank Williams has gone on record saying, "I would love to have him in my car. He's brilliant, the class of the field and I think he will be the linchpin of Ferrari for years to come. Him going to Ferrari was good for the team and good for Formula One."

Michael Schumacher in his short stint in F1 racing has managed to rewrite the record books many times over. But only time will say whether he will be remembered as the greatest Formula One driver ever, Well, for starters the planets certainly all seem aligned in Schumacher's favour.

59

A STAR IS BORN!

From a rural area in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, India has found a child prodigy in Parthipadu Harikrishna who is the current under-10 world chess champion

VERY dark cloud has a silver lining, an oft-quoted axiom could aptly be applied to the emergence of bubbly, exuberant Parthipadu Harikrishna as world chess under-10 years champion His home state Andhra Pradesh which reeled under the devastating impact of a killer hurricane leaving about 2,000 people missing or dead and property damaged in the cyclone-hit Godavari districts was worth Rs.5.375 crores.

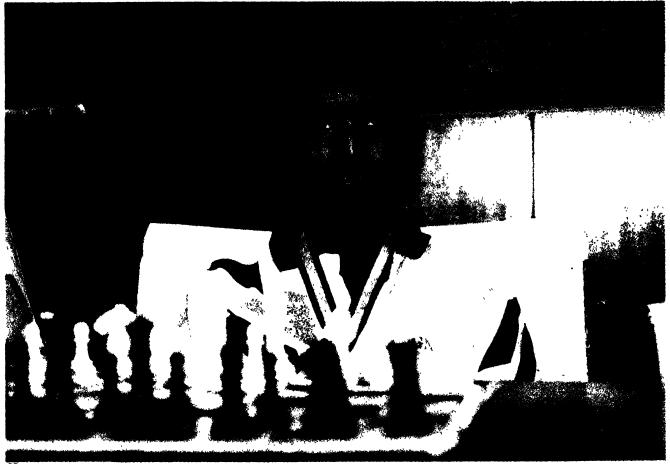
Yet amidst all this destruction and despair, a sparkling young chess

prodigy from Vinjanampadu in Guntur district of Andhra however brought some consolation and cheer to the beleagured Andhraites. On AP Formation Day (November 1) Harikrishna annexed the World Under-10 years chess title at Menorca, Spain. In fact, he is the second Indian to win a world crown in chess. Nine years ago, Vishwanathan Anand had won the World Junior (under-20 years) title at Baguio in the Philippines.

Harikrishna has developed massive powers of concentration from his childhood

Anand, who became the first Asian to win a world chess crown, set a trend for chess success in India. The wonder . kid from Bengal, Surya Shekhar Ganguly won two bronze medals in the Under-10 years World Championships at Poland in 1991 and Slovakia in 1993.

The diminuitive, chubby-cheeked Tanya Sachdeva of Delhi has the distinction of being the youngest Indian to win a gold medal in any sport. Tanya was fourteen days short of her 7th birthday when she annexed the Commonwealth Chess





Championship for girls under-8 years at Dundee, Scotland in 1993. In 1994, Tanya bagged an unprecedented five titles in the British Chess Championships.

So Anand's success has spawned many chess prodigies in this country, as this cerebral game has got increasingly popular. However, the blossoming of Harlkrishna as an age-group world champion, is a real saga of determination, dedication and family sacrifice. The bubbling youth sparkling eyes, broad with forehead and higher than average IQ is a trend-setter of sorts. He is India's first chess champion from a rural. background. He was born on May 10, 1986 at Prathipadu village, in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.

His father P. Nageshwar Rao is a larmer who owns three acres of barren land which has produced very little over the years. Making ends meet was always a struggle. Despite the odds and in such an unconducive atmosphere, Harikrishna's chess career blossomed, once again proving that human spirit and will power can conquer all obstacles.

As is often the case in Indian sports, Harikrishna took to chess more by accident than design. His maternal grandfather T. Ranga Rao, an avid chess fan spent hours playing the game with other villagers.

Harikrishna was taught the rudiments of chess by his grandfather. His interest developed by watching elders play. As a detached onlooker Harikrishna started working out moves in his own mind. This childhood hobby enabled him develop massive powers of concentration and learn the intricacies of the game. This childhood passion of watching others play and trying to work out the best moves himself led to the discovery of his chess talent.

One winter evening T. Ranga Rao was trapped in an uncomfortable position on the chess board. With a furrowed brow and wriggling uneasily Ranga Rao was uncertain about his next move. Standing nearby, young Harikrishna analysed the situation and suggested an opening which retrieved the situation for his grandfather.

From that day onwards, T. Ranga Rao realised that Harikrishna was a chess prodigy, a boy with exceptional intelligence, concentration and a natural flair for this sport. He spent many hours coaching him and brushing up his game.

The prodigy was launched at the age of five years. At this tender age, when youngesters are often gawky

At a press conference in Delhi. Seated from left: Harikrishna with mother, Padmavsti, father Nageshwar Reo, grandfather Renge Reo and Dr. Rathieh

and shy, Harikrishna bagged the fourth prize at the 1991 under-8 year national championships at Calicut and repeated the feat the following year at Ahmedabad. Next came the typical Indian paradox. His parents wanted him to concentrate on studies as they felt with his inherent intelligence he had a promising academic career. However, the maternal grandfather T. Ranga Rao insisted on special coaching for chess.

In 1992, Harikrishna came under the care of International Woman's Master (IWM) Vasanthi Unni and V.R. Bobba, a professional chess trainer. In 1993, he trained with R. Sivaprasad at Vijaywada. That year, he won his first national crown, the under-8 years crown at Palakkad.

However, 1994 was the crucial year in the development of Harikrishna's career. His parents took an important decision. He gave up his school studies for a year to train under International Master Lanka Ravi at Neyvelli. Inevitably the parents were cajoled into this decision by T. Ranga Rao who admitted, "It was a prudent but risky decision. If he had not clicked in chess he would have lost a year in

DESERTORY LIE MENTS CONTRACT TO THE

in a collector of 940 million or 94 crosses we have just one world champion, at present. He is the chirpy 10-year-old chess prodigy. the san of a small time farmer. Maybe the population is too diverse and large for proper concentration of resources an genuine talent. Carping critics cite the example of highly-populated China and their production of an array of world champions in saide. tennis, gymnastics, weightlifting. swimming, bedminton and athletics. Maybe in our democratic set-up we cannot afford the funds diverted to sports which China does. Whatever the reason, India is an under achiever in world sports. Harikrishna's world title in age-group chess, is a shot in the arm for Indian sport. On his return from his world conquering feat. Harikrishna spoke to the media at a function organised by lielson officers at Andhra Bhavan, Delhi.

Did you feel any pressure at the World Championships at Menorca?

Before the tournament, yes a little. But once the games started, there was no pressure.

Did you expect to win?
Not really, I thought it would be
very competitive and I would come
second or third.

How do rate your opponents? Except for the match against Gashim Vongar from Azerbaijan



academics. However, I felt that such a gamble was justifiable. My son who has completed his engineering is jobless at the moment. So it is better my grandson plays chess. After all just degrees do not get you jobs

nowadays."

The stint at Neyvelli was the turning point of his career. Writing about Harikrishna's prowess, Lanka Ravi has stated that, "when he first came to me, he had a fair knowledge of his

opening and middle game but his assessment of which moves to make was not up to the mark. What I noticed and liked most about him was his rare power of concentration. He would sit for several hours taking tips from me

market of many are added

to whom Herikrishes signs the second round), the yest was easy.

That are vour amiditions in

(With an impish smile) I want to be the world's youngest Grand Master. Hopefully, a Grand Master by the year 2000.

Who is your leveurite chara player?

Of course, Vishwanathan Anand, I like to play attacking chess like him. I have not played against him or met him. I would like to meet him. I enjoy his style of playing and have analysed most of his games.

Who is your favourite sportsperson?

Sachin Tendulkar. When he bats in a one-day international. I pray that he can bat the whole session, as it makes me very happy to see him bat. I do not like any criticism against Tendulkar.

Besides chess what are your hobbies?

Watching Telugu movies or playing tennis; cricket and carrom.

What is your favourite subject at school? Mathematics of course, that is why I am good at chess. I find maths easy. (The Director of VEI, Dr. L. Reflicit emilional that the drippy Backballini sud a natural aptitude (or multipression).

What we the Banchil rewards for witining site world tible? Well, These been promised its 1 takh from the Andhra Pradesh Government by the Chief afinister of our state and all assistance for participation in Tuouse to unmarments. At this juncture, lift grandsather T. Ranga Rao intervened. This poy thould have been born in a sidi family. Not in a poor family file ours. To launch his career I wrote to all the major business because of Andhra Pradesh and advertised in local netwopapers for a sponsor bus pot to response in 1995, Dr. Rathrish came to our rescue."

What are your fature plens in chest?

(Uncertainly) heep playing chess. Dr. L. Rathiah piped in and said, "Now we will have to draw up a schedule as to what tournaments he should play. Then we have to find a good coach for him. We will consult a group of tomaer internationals before finalising anything. I was told when sponsoring Harikrishna that it was a costly investment; I never really expected anything to happen so soon. Harikrishna has amazed me and now I am willing to spend any amount to let him realise his dreams.

Novy Kapadia

and trying to analyse many positions."

and the state of the state of the

Lanka Ravi was confident that Harikrishna with his penchant for hard work would achieve success soon. However, he admitted that Harikrishna had surpassed expectations by winning the world crown. Chess expects feel that Harikrishna has enormous talent like Anand and Dibyendu Barua and his assessment of positions is very accurate and rapid. Now it is to be seen

if this prodigy gets the right backing and sponsorship so that his talent can blossom and not fade away like the neglected Barua.

It is quite a remarkable coincidence that India which rarely has world champions in any sport, now has two world champions from the same state. Karnam Malleswari from a remote village in Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh, the haunt of Naxalites, was world champion in the 54 kilogram category at the 1994 and 1995 Women's World Championships. Now Harikrishna from Guntur is a world champion in chess. Both these world champions from the state famous for its Tirupathi temple and Charminar trod a tough road to glory.

In both cases, timely external support enabled them to fulfil their ambitions. Malleswari was spotted and nurtured by the Hinduja Sports Foundation which provided her a monthly stipend and nutritious diet. Harikrishna's talent was nurtured by the Vignan Educational Institute (VEI) which is run by a chess fanatic Dr. L.R. Rathiah. In 1995, Rathiah saw Harikrishna's talent and decided to promote him in a big way.

The VEI sponsors Harikrishna's chess career to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh per year and gives him free education at their boarding school at Vadlumundi, near Guntur. They also provide him access to a computer installed at the Vignan degree college. Besides, the college provides the necessary chess softwares like Chessbase and Fritz.

Harikrishna nearly missed the world championship at Menorca, Spain, for lack of sponsors. The Government of India only paid the air-fare. A sum of Rs.60-70,000 was needed for expenses. Industrial houses of Andhra Pradesh shunned the overtures by the boy's parents to fork out this paltry sum. Again Dr Rathiah was the benefactor, the godfather who paid the expenses so that Harikrishna could keep his tryst with chess destiny. Indian sport has good samaritans who also need to be feted and acknowledged.

Novy Kapadia



THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN!

It was a proud moment for India when a team from the Royal Calcutta Golf Club won the Johnnie Walker International Club title in Chinese-Taipei

THE Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) won the Johnnie Walker International Club Championship at the Ta Shee Golf Club in Taiwan recently. The RCGC, the third oldest club in the world, were represented by Sudeep Chitlangia, Asit Luthra, Aditya Bajoria,

Jaideep Chitlangia and Madan Singh (non-playing captain). They finished on top with a total net score of 436.6, followed by Thailand, with 444.8, while Korea finished third with 448.6. Fifteen Asian countries took part in this exciting two-day tournament.

On the first day, the Indians unfortunately had to play in conditions which were unfamiliar. In Calcutta, the turf on which the golfers play are level and there are no high velocity winds to say the least. However in the Ta Shee Golf course, the Indian golfers had to play

in high velocity wind and undulating terrain. This affected their performance to some extent, although it cannot be denied that Bajoria and Chitlangia played excellent golf and finished a cretitable second in their divisions at the end of the day.

However, Luthra struggled with his putting. Though he trailed in the gross category, he managed to bring in a respectable net score. At the end of the day, the Indians were ahead of Thailand by four shots at 218. A further shot away were Hongkong and South Korea.

At this stage, the tournament was wide open. In the A division,



Wigberto Clavecilla of the Phillipines played one over par to lead the pack with a score of 73. In the B division, Lee Sang Yoon of Korea was ahead with 79 while the surprise of the day was U. Nilkumhaeng's of Thailand score of 76 which enabled him to lead in the C division.

On the second day, to everyone's delight, the wind velocity decreased and things took a turn for the better. Luthra came into his own and brought in a net score of 70.6. This incidentally was the lowest net score of the tournament. Bajoria had a final round of 82, his net was higher at 74.8

The RCGC team with the attractive Johnnie Welker trophy

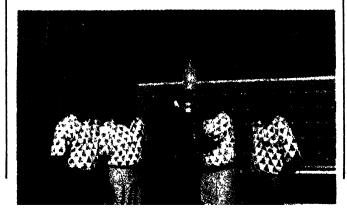
compared to Chitlangia's 73.2. This put India at 436.6. And what do you know? This score put a tremendous amount of pressure on the Thai golfers who later succumbed to it. Their performance saw them slide eight strokes behind and were closely followed by Korea and the Chinese-Taipei.

Of all the players

participating in the
Johnnie Walker meet it was
surprising that only one
meet sub-par cumulative
net score was carded and
that distinction was
achieved by Asit Luthra,
who had a score of 143.
It was excellent!

Mention must also be made about the other two members of the team, Madan Singh and noted industrialist Jaideep
Chitlangia. Singh was a
constant inspiration to the
team. Jaideep Chitlangia
on the other hand very
sportingly agreed to carry
Bajoria's bag when the
latter had problems in
reading the green. A rare
sight indeed!

The participating Asian countries were Thailand, Korea, Chinese-Taipei, Sri Lanka, Hongkong, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Nepal, Guam, Japan and Mynamar. RCGC's victory became more significant as their golfers had to pit their strengths against some of the well known amateur golfers of different countries.



frecutiveling

IDN'T believe who I accidentally bumped into at a swimming meet the other day. And there's quite a lot of him that one can bump into—if you know who I am talking about.

His name is Carlo Perdersoli. Carlo who?

Well, he's no swimming coach or new immigrant to Australia.

You see, we know him better by another name. Bud Spencer.
Remember him? The heavyweight sidekick of Terence Hill in those

comic-western movies which were such great hits around the world.

But where does Bud Spencer fit into the scheme of things here?

You see. The last time Bud set foot in Australia he was hoping to make a big splash at the Melbourne Olympics. Yes believe it or not, the bulky actor came to represent Italy in swimming at the 1956 Olympic Games.

As Carlo Pedersoli, Spencer was Italy's 100m freestyle champion for ten consecutive years and later a member of the nation's world champion waterpolo team.

While he missed out on the medals 40 years ago, Big Bud apparently did take back fond memories of Australia. The now jumbo-sized star was delighted to be invited to Perth to head a major mini-series being shot for Italian and Australian television. The burly sidekick of the Trinity series now plays the boxing and life mentor to a young orphan in the family series.

"It's a pleasure to make a movie in English," Spencer told me in our brief chat. Remember the Trinity movies were all dubbed into English.

In fact, Spencer boasts that he speaks six languages, but still labours with his English. "Every day it gets better," he laughed and said.

He is still very attracted to sport. "It is still in some way the last bastion of spirit left in the world," he says adding, "these days the world is full of different political situations, terrorism, violence, mafia, everything. Sport is somewhat removed from all that."

Spencer's beard in now grey and his face shows his age. The 66-year-old father of three says he's worked in 108 films but none as famous as the Trinity series.

He still keeps in contact with Terence Hill, the blue-eyed hero "who comes to my house whenever he visits Rome. When I go to Santa Fe in New Mexico, I go to his house," Spencer said.

He is also proud of the Trinity series because "it changed something in the mentality of people about westerns. For the first time, we were making people laugh."

But why the name Bud Spencer?
"My name (Carlo) was very known
in Europe for my sport and then I like
Spencer Tracy, the American actor,"
he said.

"And then the beer Budweiser, so it's become Bud Spencer."

"But I never drink. I never drank in my life."

His gut of course tells a different story. Maybe it was all the water he swallowed as a swimmer in his younger days.

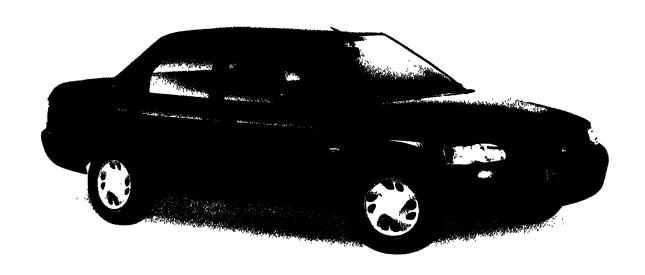
Andy O'Brien, Perth



SKETCH BY ANLIP RAY

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Om ATLAS

1t's cool to Tango